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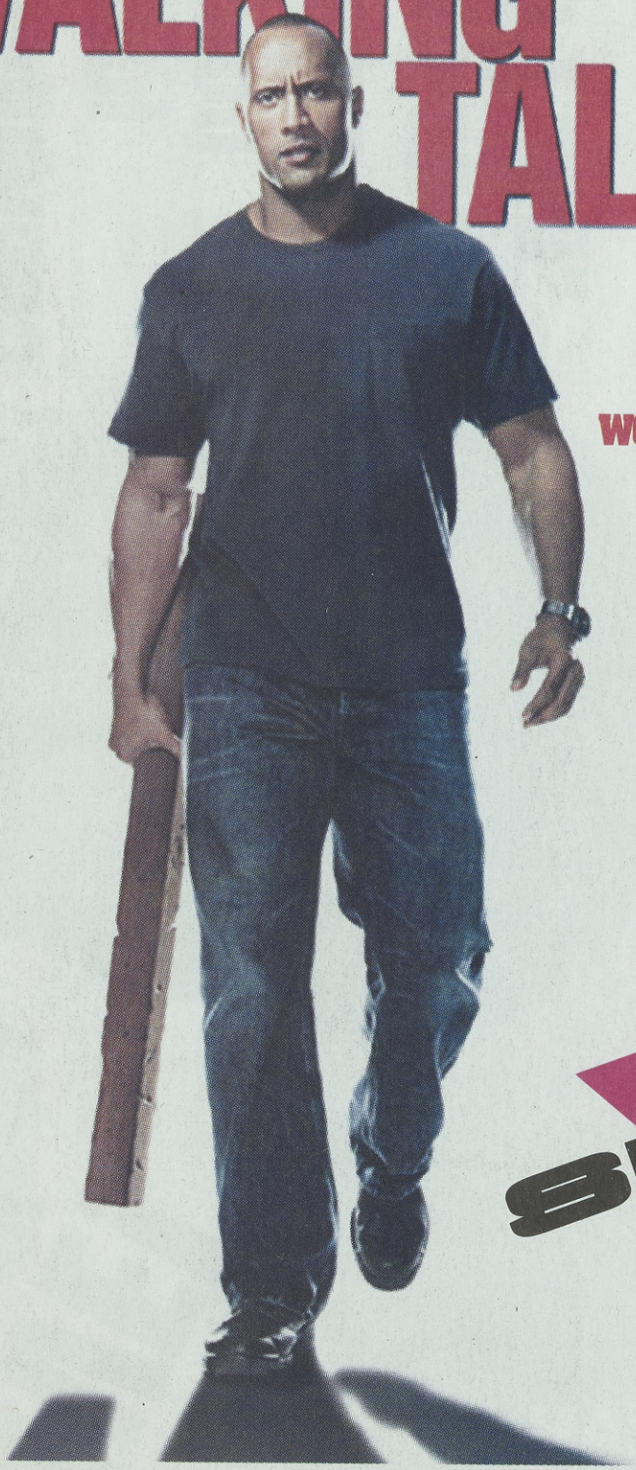

RAGG

OCTOBER 2004

INSIDE:

2004 FILM FESTIVAL
WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT
KATE CLINTON
GINA LIVINGSTON
PSYCHO BEACH PARTY
SECOND SATURDAY
BLAIR MASTBAUM
LLACE OPEN MIC NIGHT
GUYS GONE WILD
TALK TO MOTHER

SIGLFF
OCT. 6 - 10

SACRAMENTO'S GLBT COMMUNITY VOICE

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BIG TOP
FERRIS WHEEL
COSTUME CONTESTS
MAJOR CASH PRIZES!
DANCING
6 THEMES!

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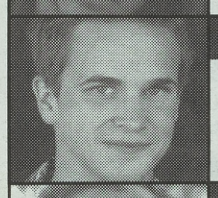
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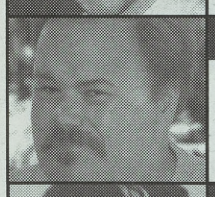
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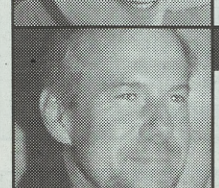
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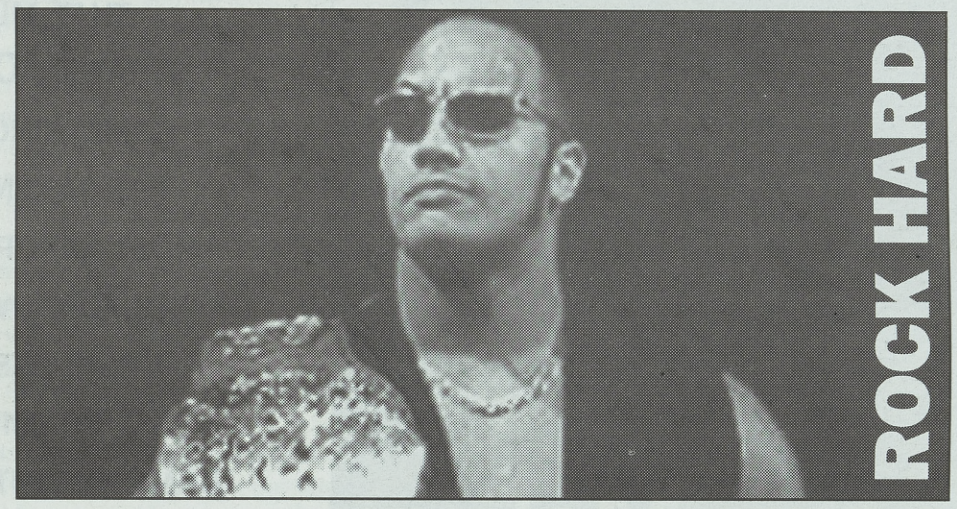
Vol. 1, Issue 5 • October, 2004

HAVE A SUPER SPOOKY HALLOWEEN!



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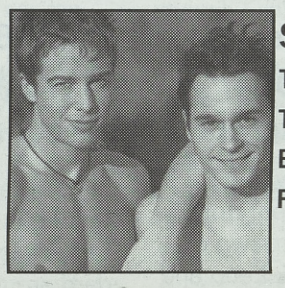

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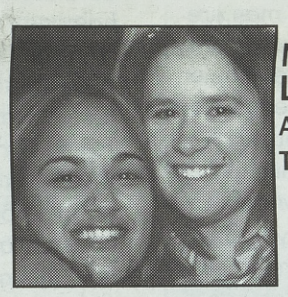

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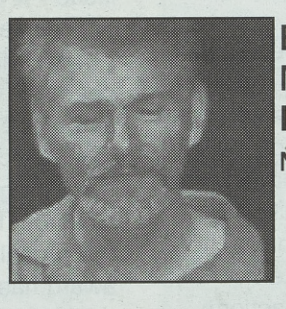

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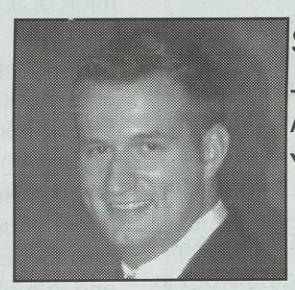

STEVE HANSEN WAS JUST ONE OF THE MANY ATTENDEES AT THIS YEAR'S CAP/PAC.
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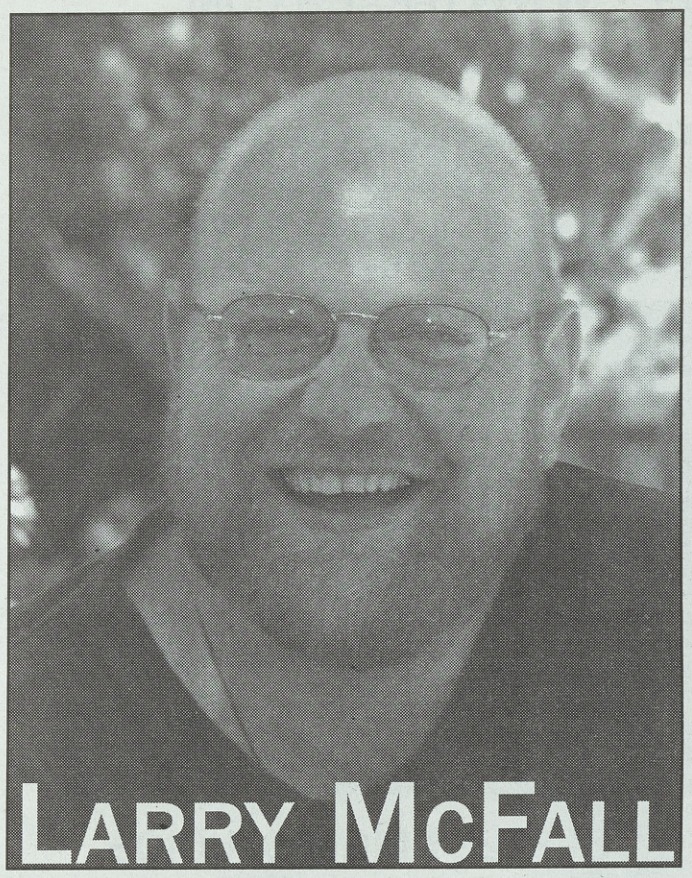

Photo by Curtis Hagen

LARRY MCFALL

"TRUST IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE EARNED. INTEGRITY IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE DEMONSTRATED. COMMITMENT IS SOMETHING THAT CANNOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, FIGHTING FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND BASIC RESPECT FOR OUR COMMUNITY IS NOT A GAME—BUT IT CAN BE FUN."

Big turnout for CAP/PAC

I HAD THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING THE 16TH ANNUAL GALA EVENT OF CAP/PAC ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2004. IT WAS A GREAT EVENING, WITH SOME PRETTY IMPRESSIVE GUESTS APPEARING TO SPEAK, OR TO INTRODUCE ANOTHER GUEST SPEAKER.

The evening started out with our MC, the adorable Jeff Ranieri, from KCRA Channel 3 introducing two of my favorite politicians: Mark Leno and Daryl Steinberg. These two men are *strong supporters of the GLBT community. Their speeches were simple* and to the point, but made even more poignant by our current political climate. But everyone was waiting breathlessly to hear the keynote speaker: San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, who started a domino effect of challenges against gay-marriage laws earlier this year.

Mayor Newsom was a spectacular choice for keynote speaker at this years' event for two reasons. First and foremost, he has been one of the biggest, if not best known supporters of gay marriage rights in California, and the entire country. Secondly, he is one very inspirational speaker.

The ripples of Newsom's actions, which made such an impact around the country, continue to affect us all in positive ways. Though our state courts have voided the marriage certificates he issued, the fight goes on to make our love legally recognized in the eyes of the government. And I couldn't be prouder than to have Mayor Newsom at the forefront of the charge, sword in hand, leading the way.

The great thing about Newsom is that he is heterosexual, which means the religious right can't use its standard argument of "it's just another homosexual trying to sway the country *with their gay agenda." He just* believes that every American, regardless of sexual preference, ethnicity, religion or economic background, has the right to marry. He discussed the struggle of interracial marriages and how we look back and ask ourselves how this could have been such a big issue—it should have been a no brainer. People are people. Love is love.

After Mayor Newsom delivered his speech, Gayiel Von took the podium and presented the CAP/PAC community service award to one of our community's greatest assets: Marghe Covino. This is only the third time in the organization's 16 years that this award has been given out, and I can't think of a more deserving person than Marghe.

As this paper is still in its infancy, and we do our best each issue to strengthen the voice of our community in Sacramento, Marghe has been a voice of support for me and the paper's mission. She has been in the newspaper business for many years, and is a great inspiration to me as each day goes by.

Our community has been overrun in past years with Q-munity members who have tried and failed with their new businesses, and, unfortunately, some who have come through just *looking to make a quick buck, then* disappear.

Trust is something that must be earned. Integrity is something that must be demonstrated. Commitment is something that cannot be taken lightly. And most importantly, fighting for civil rights and basic respect for our community is not a game—but it can be fun. Marghe never fails to remind me of this.

Thank you Marghe. Thank you Mayor Newsom, and thank you to CAP/PAC for continuing to help build a stronger GLBT community in California.

LARRY WELCOMES COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS THAT HELP TO STRENGTHEN AND NURTURE OUR COMMUNITY AND ITS VOICE. YOU MAY DROP HIM AN EMAIL AT: PUBLISHER@Q-RAGG.COM

DOING MORE FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

JACK MAPLE

As our editor liked to highlight worthy and outstanding non-profit and volunteer organizations on the editor's page, I'd like to take a little space on my page to let you know about outstanding business people in our community who are doing their part to keep us thriving and moving ahead. Giving credit where credit is due, is important.

I've gotten a chance to know Jack Maple over the past several months and I wonder how many people know that Jack has been giving back to the GLBT community for many years, and he is continually upping the ante.

This year alone, The Jack Maple Team has helped with the Capital City Aids Walk by sponsoring the Center High School Drum Line from Antelope to open the event. Not only did Jack's team donate money to the charity, but gave a donation to the high school for their participation and the help of instructors Duane Anderson and Rodney Smith.

Jack and his team at Countrywide Home Loans are the Executive Producer Sponsors of the Film Festival. They are sponsoring the evening of Thursday, October 7, 2004, with invitations going out to the community to attend the evening. Thursday night features the documentaries *Freedom to Marry* and *One Wedding and a Revolution*.

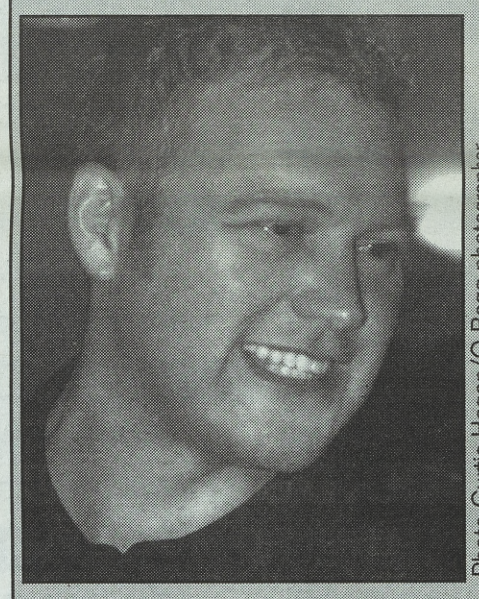

Photo Curtis Hagen/Q-Ragg photographer

Jack's team was also a sponsor of the Rainbow Festival, and helped to make sure the word got out about the festival by purchasing three full page ads in the Sacramento News and Review. Had the festival organizers purchased these ads themselves, it would have meant less funds able to be dispersed to charities.

Jack was also elected to the board of EQCA. He is again selflessly giving back to the community. This time, the Jack Maple Team will donate $1000 to EQCA, each time they handle a new loan and are presented with the coupon in this paper.

Join us in giving a heartfelt "thank you" to Jack and his team for everything they do for our community.

The Return of Wonder Boy!

MATTHEW BURLINGAME
Q-RAGG EDITOR

A few weeks ago, I purchased the DVD release of *Wonder Woman: Season One*. I hadn't seen the show since it went off the air in the 1970s, and only remembered fragmented bits and pieces of the storylines. OK, mostly I remember her spinning around in a flash of light until she appeared in that ultra-fabulous costume. I also remember playing in my front yard and spinning around pretending I would turn into Wonder Woman—at least until I had several family members drum it into my head that I was a boy—so I then changed into Wonder Boy hoping that it would please my family.

It didn't.

The fact that a young boy could be inspired to be someone who would fight for good and truth—by a female superhero was something they couldn't handle. So soon, my cardboard bracelets, stretchy headband and twine lasso ended up in the garbage and I was forced to watch...*The Hulk*. Although looking at Lou Ferrigno shirtless was strangely arousing to my young id, Hulk was a pukey green—not red, white & blue with gold headband, perfect make-up and silver, bullet-deflecting bracelets.

So I was very excited to watch the DVDs of the first season. One thing I thought was fascinating was that the first season was true to the original Wonder Woman comic books. The series was set in 1942 in the middle of World War II. Being a World War II buff, I loved watching my childhood heroine kick Nazi butt in every episode. Yes, some of the action sequences were hella cheesy, and the plots fantastically outrageous—and I loved every minute!

But many things began occurring to me as I watched these DVDs. The first, of course, was 'Oh my god, what a small costume!' But regardless of the satin tights, there was a strong message of humanity, and an even stronger feminist statement, being made. Here is a woman loving herself for who and what she is, proving over and over that she is any man's equal, and yet she is not only comfortable with her femininity, but uses it as a source of empowerment (along with that sassy power belt!).

I do want to clarify for the bulls reading this to not confuse the use of the term 'feminine" with "femme". I know for a fact that the hardest stone-butch can still appreciate her own womynhood. So put down the pen and read on....

In each episode Wonder Woman saves Maj. Steve Trevor, who is the male version of Superman's Lois Lane. He's was a great war hero, but ever since Wonder Woman arrived, he can't seem to do anything but get captured and fall down when running from the bad guys. But we like him because he's so damn sexy-–OK, I like him 'cause he's so damn sexy. "I'll have a Lyle Wagoner sandwich please."

Not only does she save Steve, but in each episode Wonder Woman saves the USA and preserves the American way of life. In every episode, the Nazi's evil plot is foiled and the ideals of peace and freedom are kept intact. Of course, in World War II, the USA was unquestioningly the "good" in a war of "good vs. evil." Well...everything is debatable, but in 1942, Nazis & Japan equaled "Bad" and Allied Forces equaled "Good" and there's not many who will disagree.

Another common theme in the show was how German spies were everywhere. They all came into the country on submarines, spoke perfect english (even in Germany), and were always the person we least expected, until Wonder Woman exposed them in the end with her truth-telling lasso.

Then at the end of each episode, we saw nothing but Wonder Woman's huge, beautiful smile, and we knew that the Axis of Evil was beaten into submission ...until the next episode.

While watching these shows, I found myself watching a reflection of the America in which I was raised to believe. Each day as we recited the pledge of allegiance, as we sang American folk songs about Yankee Doodle, I believed, unflinchingly, that America was good and the government, like my family, wanted nothing more than to protect me. In this America, you knew who the bad guys were, and they truly were bad guys, not just the lesser of two evils. There was a unity with fellow Americans, regardless of political party, personal beliefs or any other differences. You were never afraid to speak what was on your mind, no matter how unpopular the opinion, because you knew the secret service wouldn't be on the doorstep the next day with the ability to hold you indefinitely without cause or charge. It was an America that believed in civility, duty and personal honor.

Now in reality, we know that America never really existed—but that wasn't important. What was important was the mere belief that it existed. Because if we believed it existed, then in some small *way, there was hope that it really could* be like that one day.

Unfortunately, each time I turned the DVD player off, and rejoined the real world, the realization crept back in with a harsh reminder that as things currently stand, even the illusion of a united, free America is unobtainable.

This reality was driven home to me when I went to put up a Kerry-Edwards sign in my window. I live in a neighborhood of mostly draft-age college kids who come from well-off neo-conservative, right-wing families, most of whom self-identify as republicans. I hesitated putting the sign up, until I faced the fact that I was actually scared. I was scared of having my window broken, my door graffittied, or my car keyed. This is something that never crossed my mind when I put up my Clinton and Gore signs several years ago. But the reality is, these violations of personal freedoms are happening all over the country on a daily basis.

Mothers are being thrown in secret service vans for asking questions. People are being arrested for wearing anti-administration slogans on their shirts. People are having to sign loyalty oaths to the current government. Seems to me these are the same things the leadership of Iraq was doing—and apparently why we went to war with them. Or was it terrorism? Or...wait...where's a magic truth-inducing lasso when you need one?

I put my sign in my window. Even though I still have my fears, I did it because the hope for the America that Wonder Woman defended still lives inside of me; the one where we know our government's top priority is to protect us as we all learn to live in harmony. Until that day happens—even though I don't have an awesome costume—I, Wonder Boy, will strive to make the America that I, Wonder Woman, and hopefully you, believe in. You can do it *too, if you just take action and vote.*

Now sing with me..."Wonder Woman (and Boy)—all the world is waiting for you, and the power you possess. In your satin tights—fighting for your rights, and the old red, white & blue!"

Dear Editor...

THANKS FROM THE UPTOWN GIRL!

A huge thanks to the folks at Q-Ragg for showing up and taking so many wonderful photos. The Drag Queen Show recently hosted at Uptown Studios was total fun and big success. Now we have a title for our drag shows here "Uptown Girlz" (I hope you will let us use that!) I wanted to take a moment to thank Jim Day for our fabulous set and lighting designer for the show, Rusty Nails, Felicity Diamond, Empress Shondra, Sean, Taryn Thruyu, DJ Markie Mark and all the other performers and volunteers who made the event such a success. I also want to recognize my hard working coworkers - they get to come in to find feathers an sparkles all over their office and try to figure out what happened on their desks! The show was fun, well-produced and well-received by an audience that is "outside the norm" for drag shows here in Sacramento.

Besides having a great time we built some bridges between communities. Half of the crowd was our straight friends and they had a blast. It is most rewarding when we can break down some of the restrictions that keep us away from our neighbors. A special thanks to CGNIE for allowing us the opportunity to showcase local talent and make a little money for charity in the process. We made enough at our door to "go to print" on the Eros Men's calendar for gay men. Calendars will be available for shipping in September.

Without the support of our community we would not be able to do the things we do. Our next Drag Queen Show we'll get the Mayor to show up! Keep coming back.

Tina Reynolds
Uptown Studios

SWAGGART WANTS TO KILL OFF THE QUEERS, EH?!

I assume you've heard about Rev. Jimmy Swaggart's comments on killing gays. Well, maybe it's time to let him feel a little fire and brimstone. Here's a chance for everybody to really make a difference. Write to the FCC!! Here's the URL: http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/copps/mail.html. Commissioner Copps is a decent guy and will listen to what you have to say. And, truth be told, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to do a little "bigot baiting" - care to join me?

Dear Chairman Cox:

I note that CBS stations were fined $27,500 each for the Janet Jackson "wardrobe malfunction". How much will each station be fined for airing Rev. Jimmy Swaggart's comments threatening to kill gay citizens? In his 9/12 telecast regarding a gay American, he promised "... I'm going to kill him and tell God he died." I hope he's fined a whole lot more than $27,500/station for those hateful comments. It's hateful speech like that can be linked directly to the murder of gay and lesbian folk. Just a fine? Actually, these being the public airwaves, perhaps it would be appropriate for the stations to lose their licenses. Public need & necessity and all... Thank you.

Will Bennett
Q-Munity Member

Letters to the Editor: Please include your first and last name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters or emails submitted without this information will not be printed. Thank you.

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Sacramento Valley Bears Ken Day Fund 2004

As in every issue, I like to take the opportunity to highlight groups and organizations that benefit our community. This issue, I'd like to pass on some information that will hopefully be beneficial to your favorite AIDS or educational charity.

Lazy Bear Weekend 2004 was even more successful than last year and the Sacramento Valley Bears are expecting to donate a larger amount to local AIDS organizations.

They are currently soliciting requests from HIV/AIDS related charities in the greater Sacramento area for grant proposals for this year's disbursement of funds. Grant applications are available and can be requested by sending a letter to: Ken Day Fund, Sacramento Valley Bears, P.O. Box 189311, Sacramento, CA 95818-9311, or you can email brent@winfirst.com.

The deadline for submitting an application is October 31, 2004. Applications postmarked after October 31, 2004 will not be considered for funding. They will evaluate the proposals in November and notify award recipients at their general membership meeting in December 2004 at club 21.

Please help by getting the word out to any HIV/AIDS organizations in the greater Sacramento area about this grant and the Ken Day Fund.

PFLAG Service of Remembrance By PR Team/PFLAG

PFLAG's annual service of remembrance will take place October. 3, 2004 at the First United Methodist Church. The service will honor the memory of victims who died from GLBT hate crimes.

The shocking murder of Matthew Shepard placed a spotlight on the terrifying magnitude of hatred directed toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) people and the people who care about them. Sadly, Matthew is only one name on a lengthy roll call of people who have died at the hands of ignorance and bigotry.

A Service of Remembrance will be held on October 3, 2004, at 4:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church, 21st and J Streets in Sacramento. Sponsored by Sacramento PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), the service is offered in memory of all who have died violent deaths because they were (or were perceived to be) gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered.

PFLAG is very fortunate that the Honorable Roger Dickinson, member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, has graciously accepted the invitation to be Honorary Chairperson of this significant event. Distinguished citizens who have served as Honorary Chair include The Very Rev. Dr. Donald Brown and the Honorables Anne Rudin, Darrell Steinberg, Illa Collin and Heather Fargo.

We are grateful to the people of the First United Methodist Church for welcoming us to their faith community this year. In 1999, the first Service of Remembrance was held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. The following year, St. Francis Roman Catholic Church opened their doors for the service. The third year, Pioneer Congregational, United Church of Christ welcomed us. Congregation B'nai Israel was the location for the service 2002. Last year, St. John's Lutheran Church opened its doors for this interfaith service that embraces a variety of spiritual expressions. Including the Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu traditions.

Featured during the service is a period of time during which we honor the List of Lost Lives - over 650 names whose deaths have been the result of fear, hatred and intolerance toward their sexual orientation or gender expression. The service provides the opportunity to remember their lives with love, bear witness to the atrocity of their deaths and affirm as a community that hatred and violence must end.

It is not a coincidence that the service is held each year near National Coming Out Day (October *11*th). This is in recognition of the fact that coming out is a risk and very dangerous for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their families. By coming out, people risk their homes, their jobs, their friendships, their faith community memberships, their family relationships and even their lives. In addition, October is designated as Gay and Lesbian History Month. Thus, this service reminds us that the history of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people has been fraught with injustice, hatred and violence. Finally, October marks the anniversary of *the horrifying torture and murder of Matthew Shepard.*

The Service of Remembrance has been recognized by the Office of the Governor of the State of California, the California State Assembly, the California State Senate, the Sacramento City Council and the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors with appropriate Proclamations and Resolutions. Several elected officials have attended or sent representatives. Similar recognition and participation is expected this year.

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

For more information, please write, call or email: Sacramento PFLAG, PO Box 661855, Sacramento, CA 95866, (916) 978-0410, sacpflag@sacramentopflag.org or visit their web page: www.sacramentopflag.org.

PFLAG
PARENTS, FAMILIES, FRIENDS of LESBIANS & GAYS

Members of the Sacramento Faith Community Scheduled to attend:

Rabbi Brad Bloom, Congregation B'nai Israel
Rev. Dr. Donald Brown, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
Rev. Danny Bradfield, Fairview Christian Church, Disciples of Christ
Rev. Tina Campbell, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
Rev. Charles Cooper, Cathedral of promise Metropolitan Community Church
Rev. Ralph Curtis, OHS, Community of St. Dismas, Orthodox Catholic Church
Rev. Marilyn Erickson, Fair Oaks United Methodist Church
Rev. Robyn Hartwig, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
Rev. Douglas Kraft, Unitarian Universalist Church
Rev. John Mangeles, St. George's Episcopal Church
Rev. Faith Moran, Spiritual Life Center
Rev. Michael Moran, Spiritual Life Center
Cantor Carl Nalaui, Congregational B'nai Israel
Rev. Dave Peters, Lutherans Concerned
Rev. Jay Pierce, Central Untied Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Freda Smith, Cathedral of Promise, Metropolitan Community Church
Rev. Dr. David Thompson, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Rev. James Truesdell, Pioneer Congregational, United Church of Christ
Rev. Faith Whitmore, St. Marks United Methodist Church
Rev. Jerry Woodward, Central Community Chapel

ASK FATHER DAVID

Dear Father David:

I am 39 and because of my job, have never been part of a gay community, even though I have been out for the most part since I was about 25. I have had two LTRs, but our friends at the time were primarily very accepting straight couples. I just moved to Sacramento and want to experience being part of the gay community and to make connections with gay and lesbian friends, but am not sure how to go about it. I'd appreciate any suggestions. —Mark in Sacramento

Bother Mark,

We have a wealth of exciting things to do here in Sacramento. First, I would encourage you to get involved in whatever you can, such as, The Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange @ 1414 21st Street. They have movie nights, open mics, and Second Saturdays. Are you a veteran, a bear, a leather person, a writer? There is a wide array of groups to seek involvement with in the area. Volunteer as much and as often as you can for Breaking Barriers or Avalon House. Be firm when volunteering though, let the organization know of your availability, for charitable organizations are very short-staffed and will require a solid commitment. The key Mark, is to find the venues that would hold your interest, in doing this you will put yourself out there and open yourself to like-minded individuals. Take a deep breath and get out there, there's a whole world of things to do, at times it's an Easter egg hunt, just take joy in the seeking.

Dear Father David,

My partner and I got together just after I had turned my back on organized religion. We have both been self-proclaimed atheists for the past 6 or so years. Recently I was with my sister as she gave birth, and watching my niece be born was nothing short of witnessing a miracle. Now, I am beginning to question my religious views. When I talk to my partner about this, she now becomes almost hysterical. I don't know what to do. —Sheanne in West Sac

Sister Sheanne,

Our religious views are our own. Remember that religious beliefs and spiritual beliefs are different. You question your beliefs, and that is your right as a living creature. When it comes to religion and spirituality, those are very personal beliefs and should be treated as such. You do not owe your partner any explanation on your feelings in these areas. Intolerance of a person's personal beliefs is an ongoing societal problem. Question all things for yourself and just yourself.

Dear Father David

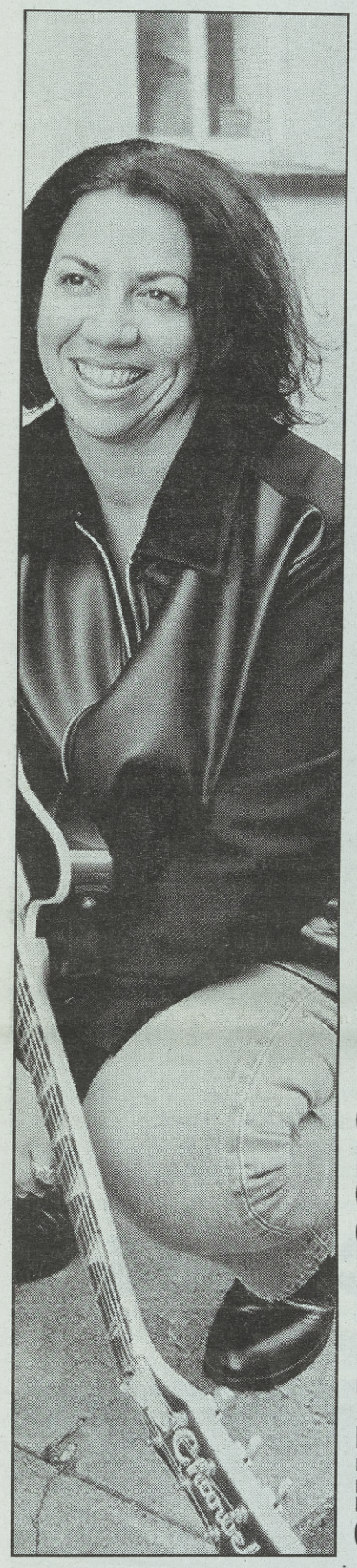
My sister just came out. She's 15 and I am 16 and we still lives at home with my parents and me and our two older brothers. None of the others support her and our brothers are always calling her a dyke now and making rude jokes about her friends when they come over. Our parents turn their back. I want to support her in her life as a lesbian. Can you tell me how I can help my sister? —Name Withheld

Child of Light

Your sister is very blessed to have you in her life. She will need your support. Encourage her to seek out and learn about the programs available to her as a young lesbian. The youth group at the Lambda Community Center, which is a local organization that serves the lesbian and gay community, did worlds of good for myself. At fifteen, I began attending the youth group and found that there was a world for me and that I wasn't alone in the feelings I had. I didn't fit in at first but I have met many great people who continue to shape my life through my involvement there. Lambda Community Center (916) 442-0185 For yourself, I suggest contacting PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays). This is a support group of friendly folks who have a loved one who is gay or lesbian, they are there to help your family if any of you need someone to talk to. PFLAG (916) 978-0410

FATHERDAVID@Q-RAGG.COM

"Ask Father David" is for entertainment purposes only. Neither The Q-Ragg nor the author can be held liable for any injury or loss, perceived or actual resulting from the above mentioned entertainment.



GINA LIVINGSTON: SACRAmenTO'S LESBIAN popSTAR!

"There's lot's of music out there that sounds fabricated and like everyone else's, people know and recognize when your music is coming from the heart. That's what I write, original music coming from a deep place inside. My fans recognize this and really appreciate it." Says Gina Livingston, songwriter, singer, artist.

Gina was born in California but grew up in her mother's hometown of Frankfurt, Germany. While abroad, Gina's musical influences were eclectic and ranged from Euro pop and American Rhythm & Blues, Jazz, and Soul. She admires stateside artists such as Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, Annie Lennox, George Michael, and Prince.

Because Gina's formative school years were in Germany, she was able to take advantage of the diverse, well supported music programs that were an integral part of the culture and developed into the sophisticated musician that she is today. Gina's music can be best described as soulful, funk/pop with catchy beats and lyrics you'll enjoy paying attention to. "Signature to the World" (SoulPOP Records, 1997) was Gina's debut album and Gina is currently working on another full length CD featuring a single "Moment in Time," which highlights her role as caretaker for her father during a six year period.

Until her father's recent and early death from Parkinsons disease, Gina was not able to tap into the creative space she once used to during his long battle. Fans have much to look forward to with her next album certain to be as pleasing as her first hit album. For a taste of Livingston's work, you can listen online at www.ginalivingston.com. For 2005, Gina is expected to be signing on with one of the largest independent music companies in Germany in addition to touring in her second homeland.

For years, Gina has performed at numerous Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Festivals from San Francisco and Sacramento to abroad in Germany.

"I REALLY ENJOY GIVING BACK TO MY COMMUNITY IN THIS ARTISTIC WAY. SOME ARTISTS DONATE USED INSTRUMENTS TO CHARITY OR SCHOOLS WITH STRUGGLING MUSIC PROGRAMS, I SING AND WRITE MUSIC WE ALL CAN RELATE TO."

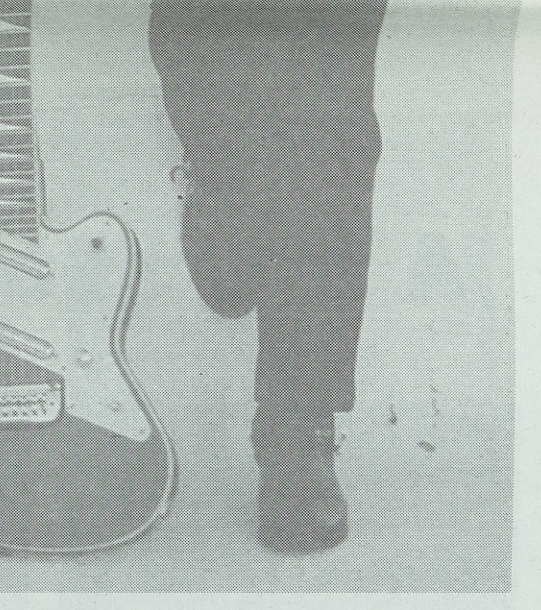
On September 23rd, Gina treated her audience to a solo acoustic performance at a fundraiser for the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) hosted by the Sacramento Lawyers for the Equality of Gays and Lesbians (SAC Legal). There, she sang her newest song "Moment in Time" and an unreleased song "Fallen" in addition to some past favorites from her first album. Gina performed not only to share her passion in music, but to help raise funds for the two organizations she believes in.

"I WAS VERY FORTUNATE WITH MY FAMILY WHILE GROWING UP, BOTH MY BROTHER AND I ARE GAY AND WE'VE BEEN VERY LUCKY. I ALSO REALIZE THAT THERE ARE MANY LESBIANS AND GAYS WHO DO NOT HAVE THE SAME SUPPORT THAT MY BROTHER AND I RECEIVED FROM OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS AT SUCH AN EARLY AGE.

"It's great that there are groups like NCLR and Sac Legal to help provide supportive legal representation to those who need it the most throughout the country."

Contact Gina directly at; info@ginalivingston.com or write to her international fan club at; SoulPOP Records PO Box 15534, Sacramento, CA 95852.

Or visit; www.ginalivingston.com.



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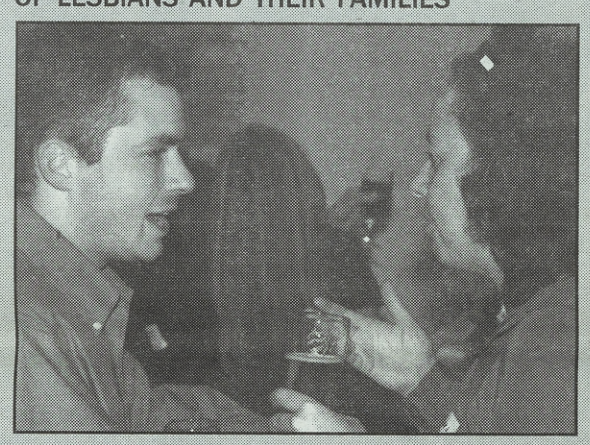
NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS

NCLR HOSTED "TIPPING THE SCALES OF JUSTICE" ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2004 AT THE SKY BAR IN SACRAMENTO

NCLR IS A LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER COMMITTED TO ADVANCING THE RIGHTS AND SAFETY OF LESBIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

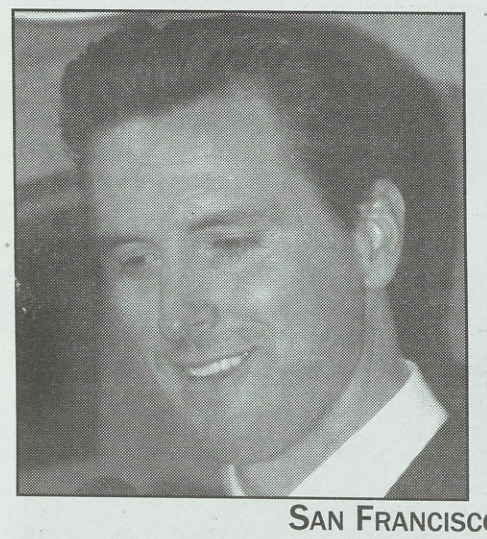


Photos by Curtis Hagen

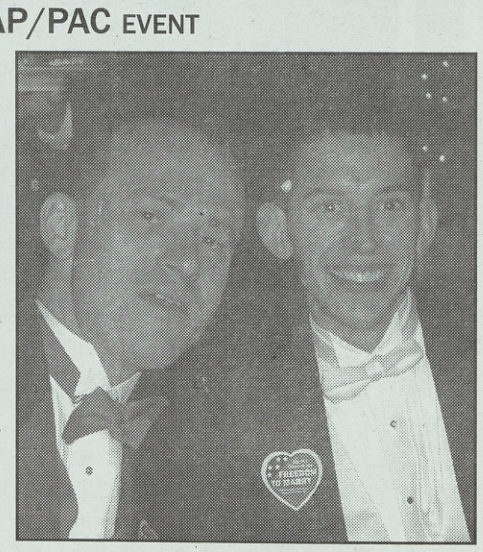
GINA LIVINGSTON HIGHLIGHTED THE EVENING OF LIVE ENTERTAINMENT THAT HELPED RAISE FUNDS FOR THE ORGANIZATION

A few snapshots from CAP/PAC 2004

Photos by Curtis Hagen/Q-Ragg



SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM WAS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR THE 2004 CAP/PAC EVENT



GAYIEL VON PRESENTED THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO MARGHE COVINO ON BEHALF OF CAP/PAC

Rainbow Girl

Story & Photos By Ricky Diaz Anaya/Q-Ragg

Ricky reflects on this year's Rainbow Festival

HEY GIRL! DID YOU MISS THE RAINBOW FESTIVAL? WERE YOU WORKING? DID YOU SIMPLY FORGET? EVEN BETTER....YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE YOUR RECENT EX, RIGHT? WELL DON'T WORRY, I SAW PLENTY OF HIGHLIGHTS AND LET ME TELL YOU....IT WAS GREAT!

Photo By Curtis Hagen/Q-Ragg

RICKY DIAZ ANAYA

kicked off the weekend with a group of friends by purchasing an all access wristband to get into all three bars: Club 21, the Depot, and Faces. We spent the early evening at Club 21 enjoying *Ronnie and the Flight* with a friendly, mellow crowd. Later, we enjoyed sitting in the front area and were rewarded with seeing all the lovely women as they arrived.

The Depot was having Paul Royter, a world famous hypnotist, perform and I headed over to catch the show. As I pushed my way through the crowd to the large fenced parking area, I saw about ten men onstage clearly "under a spell." Paul had suggested to one of the men that he was to believe he was a 'super star' singer. Upon the man opening his eyes, he grabbed the microphone and began belting out songs as if he were performing in concert! Everyone was in tears with laughter, practically falling out of their seats.

Next, Paul asked one of the men who his favorite movie star was. "Matthew Broderick," he answered. After Paul's hypnotic words, the man opened his eyes and became alert, shocked, and bashful all at the same time believing that the person next to Paul was his favorite actor. Paul suggested that they introduce each other and then dance to a romantic song already playing in the background. This eager young man gently grabs what he believes is the real Matthew Broderick, but audience members see it is really a cheesy plastic male doll in a bathrobe with an immense bulge in the groin area.

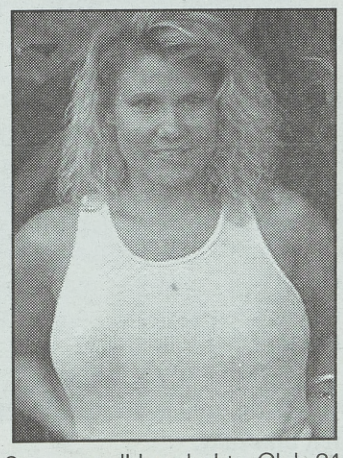
After a few moments of romantic dancing around stage, the young man surprises the audience members by laying "Matthew" down on his back and beginning to make very sexually suggestive hip straddling gyrations over his groin area. The crowd roars into laughter and I just can't believe he actually did this in front of so many people! Wow. I guess we know who's on top.

Paul then picks out another man and begins to put him 'under'. He tells this man that he possesses inside knowledge that there will be a deadly invasion of Sasquatches in downtown Sacramento and that they will be eating all those they come in contact with. He's told to tell everyone to run for their lives in his now native Chinese language. As soon as this man begins to 'wake up', he beings to panic and grabs Paul's microphone. Calm yet with urgency, he begins rambling in a Chinese-sounding language. The audience is rolling with laughter as he begs us to leave with no success. This man now gets on his knees and begins to plead to us with so much force that his face is beet red, sweaty, and we all see his veins bulging around his neck! Paul realizes this man is about to burst an artery and takes him out of his trance without a clue of what just happened. A great laugh had by all.

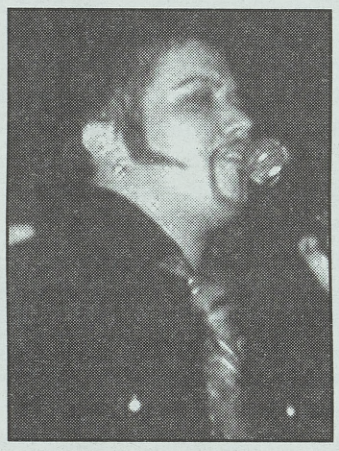
The next day I arrived at the street faire around 2pm and began walking by the fifty or so booths lined along 20th and K Streets. The booths ranged from leather clothing and accessories, shirts and hats, gifts and home decor, Costco, Chiropractic, and Church/Spiritual organizations specifically catering to the LGBT community. Near the grand stage area, hundreds gathered to watch Cheer San Francisco, a dance/cheer troupe from San Francisco defy gravity with their acrobatic moves. After their performance, they took a red bucket and asked the audience for donations to charity.

Later, I happened upon a tent full of screaming women near Faces and couldn't help but become pulled into the sweaty mass. Just my luck! It was a wet t-shirt contest about to begin. There were 13 women lined up and ready to show off their attributes in tight tops and tank tops. I didn't want to miss seeing any of the gems so I skillfully made my way on top of a speaker at the very rear for a 'dirty birds-eye' view of the showcase. The women strutted their stuff, drenched by buckets of 'titillating' ice water as the crowd went beyond wild.

After much screaming and applause for the winner who clearly dusted the equally talented competitors. Of course, yours truly took the opportunity to take a picture with the winner just for you!

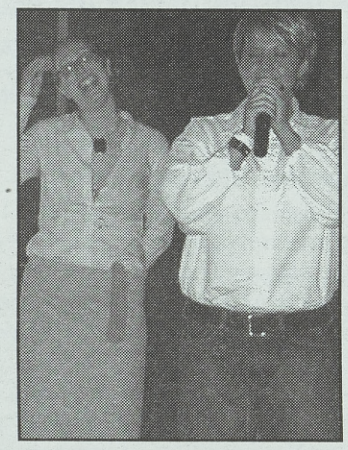


At 9pm, we all headed to Club 21 to catch the highly anticipated burlesque show featuring the Diamond Daggers and Drag Kings. The club was packed tighter than a can of sardines and every woman was awaiting an evening of talent and debauchery. The moment the MC introduced herself, the crowd burst into deafening applause. First we were treated to an entertaining genderbending Drag King/male impersonator prancing around the stage lip singing a song while at the same time making passes at and sexually suggestive moves to 'his' girlfriend the MC.



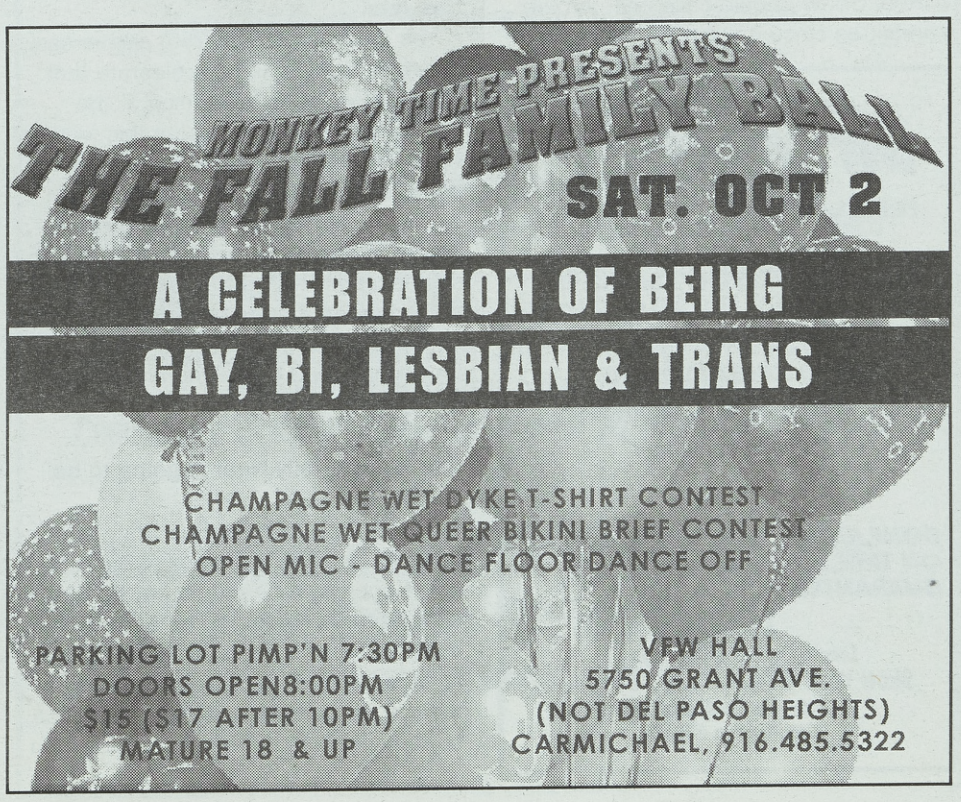
Next we were captivated by a deliciously sexy dance troupe comprised of five very sexy dancers. As the dancers progressed though their various routines that lasted for about 5 songs, they became more scantily clad. They started out in evening dresses for the first song, progressing to underwear, bra, and stockings for a couple of dance songs and for their finale they seemed to be *wearing paper thin, semi-wet nude colored* silk underwear that left just enough to the imagination. Let's just say their performance was not only very entertaining and creative, if you turned the music off you could hear a pin drop and be certain all were paying close attention.

During intermission, the MC captivated the audience's attention by including them in various risque contests. For one, she picked an audience member and asked for three volunteers to perform and compete for Best Striptease. As the first lucky gal sat in the hot seat, she was lavished by the three very talented gals. You may have just seen your friend up on stage! After much amusement by all, each of the three women received a booby prize comprised of either a whip, dildo, or some other sexual contraption.



Believe it or not, the next contest was for the best screaming orgasm. To my bewilderment I watched three women of different ages, two femmes and one butchie gal simulate their best orgasms. All were very talented but one in particular was a crowd pleaser. Can you guess why? Well I'll tell you, it was the woman who after screaming, moaning, and groaning simulated having an orgasm while she was being licked as she held her imaginary lovers hair/ears with both hands. She won, because she added the magic words "I Love You!!" to the grand *finale. The audience went crazy with laughter at this. Never did anyone* expect to see so many willing women 'come' before their eyes on stage.

RANAYA@Q-RAGG.COM



Women Take Back the Night

By June Vargas/Q-Ragg

Photo by June Vargas

AWARENESS. FREEDOM. EMPOWERMENT. SUPPORT. THOSE ARE SOME OF THE WORDS USED BY PARTICIPANTS TO DESCRIBE THEIR EXPERIENCES AT WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT (WTBN). THIS MONTH-LONG EVENT KICKS OFF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH, AND IS FILLED WITH MANY DIFFERENT EVENTS TO BOTH CELEBRATE THE 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THIS ANNUAL OCTOBER EVENT AND ALSO TO CALL ATTENTION TO A PROBLEM THAT IS STILL PREVALENT IN NOT ONLY SACRAMENTO, BUT ALL OVER THE WORLD. JULIE DAY, IN HER SECOND YEAR OF BEING ON THE SACRAMENTO COMMITTEE AND WHO ALSO SERVES AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT, TOOK TIME OUT OF HER HECTIC SCHEDULE TO GIVE A LITTLE HISTORY OF THE EVENT, TELL WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THIS YEAR AND TO TALK A LITTLE ABOUT HOW A SMALL COMMITTEE AND A DEDICATED BAND OF VOLUNTEERS MANAGE TO GET IT ALL DONE.

Can you give me a little history of Women Take Back the Night?

Basically, it started in Belgium in 1976 during an international tribunal of crimes against women. Some of the women there got together—kind of as a solidarity movement—and did a candlelight vigil just to protest the way . . . violence was limiting women's safety and the way they lived their lives, that sort of thing. Since then, it's kind of grown into a worldwide movement . In every community, it's all volunteer-based:

THERE'S NO CENTRAL WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT, SO, IT'S KIND OF INTERESTING BECAUSE IT'S DIFFERENT IN EVERY COMMUNITY. IT'S USUALLY COLLEGES OR VOLUNTEER GROUPS THAT GET TOGETHER AND PUT IT ON, AND ACTUALLY IN SACRAMENTO, WE *HAVE THE LONGEST CONTINUOUSLY* RUNNING WTBN PROGRAM THAT WE KNOW OF IN THE COUNTRY, SO THAT'S KINDA COOL.

Who started it here?

It was a group of volunteers, and because it's so grass roots, there's not a real clear history about it. Shireen Miles, I know she was involved for years and also Midge Marino, but we've lost contact with some of the people so we don't know exactly who was the one who said, "Let's have this here." There's been somebody who has consistently organizing it over the years, but that person changes every year.

How long have you been doing this?

This is my second year with this committee. Some people have been on the committee since it started—they can't remember now how long. We have a good variety of people who participate, all ages, people who are activists in social services, professionals, people with all different experiences.

So how do you get everything and everyone together each year?

That's a good question—it is 100 percent volunteer-run, so [for]those of us who are involved, it's however much time you want to commit. Over the years we have become non-profit, and there are requirements that go along with that. We now have a board, and there's four of us on the board, and the rest—it's kind of a pool of steady volunteers who show up really reliably, and some people who come in near the end and want to help out, so every year, it's just a matter of raising funds.

How do you do that?

Mainly co-sponsorships. This year we've got over 40 co-sponsors—businesses, individuals, and organizations in the community—and the biggest are mostly non-profits that have a similar mission. So yeah, it's really grass roots—calling people, letting them know what our mission is and trying to get them on board to support.

Do you do pretty well getting sponsorships?

This year, we're really happy with the more than 40 supporters. The main ones are always California NOW, WEAVE, Planned Parenthood, so there's standard supporters every year and then new ones that we pull in. We ask at least 10 times the amount of people—the money is always kind of a challenge—but we budget with whatever we are able to raise.

Do you have a lot of events scheduled this year.

Yes, because its the 25th anniversary, so we're really trying to celebrate that. The film Paulina is happening at the Crest. It's a true story about this woman who, when she is a child, [is sold by her] parents for land rights to somebody in the town, and basically she is sold into sexual slavery, and then when she is 15, she escapes and goes back to her town and confronts her parents and the town about what happened to her—it brings in [the concept of] trafficking and it sounds pretty interesting.

And it says Holly Near is going to be here?

She's going to be at Sac State and [local group] True Colors women's chorus is opening for her, and before the concert there's going to be a reception and silent auction so there's [will be] a chance to mingle and that day is [also the day of] our international conference, so the speakers will be at the reception and people will have a chance to bid on things.

And then the art show is pretty cool—Uptown Studios is one of our big sponsors and Tina [Reynolds] has been great. All month long they're having this art show—they took submissions from artists and we decided instead of pictures of women getting beat up, we'd have [artwork depicting] women's strength and recovery. We actually worked with the Women's Wisdom Project and Sac Food Bank and had women in that program submit [their pieces] and they'll be for sale. And it's a juried art show, so there will be pieces and they actually put together a calendar [featuring], the 13 top pieces they picked, and [the calendar is] going to be for sale.

The international conference, that's the one I'm excited about. We're having women from all over the world coming in to talk about all different aspects of violence against women in their country. We're going to have individual speakers, someone from Africa, someone from the Middle East, there will be a Native American leader, someone from Japan, so it's a pretty wide spectrum—that's going to be really interesting.

The other thing I should mention, it's already happened but it's pretty cool, is we had an internship with students from Hiram Johnson [High School]. There's six of them and they've been [working] all through August doing an internship in anti-violence activism that covers everything from cyber stalking, bullying, date rape drugs—it's really a good program—and then they're going to take projects back to their school and do anti-violence projects. Also, they will be bringing the high school scene to all of our events. It's a cool group of kids so it's been a new thing this year.

Do you have a lot of younger kids participate and do they take violence against women as seriously as women before them did?

I think definitely, with the response we got to the internship was huge—we got some really qualified kids. I think it's just getting the word out in a way that draws them in. Typically, our events have been attended by college [age] and above, but we're really trying to reach out to high school kids because I think they have a lot to contribute. Actually, about half the sexual assaults are committed—the victims are under 18. Teen violence is really up too, so it is a group that really needs to be reached out to more, and I think there is a lot of interest there.

And everything ends with the traditional march and rally.

Yes.

Is attendance still up for the march?

We had about 400 people last year—that's what we estimated— so we're hoping it's going to be bigger this year, with all of the events. And we're kind of doing some different things this year—we're having a speaker that's focused on an action item, so [it's]something that people can actually take away from the rally and do.

Can you give me an example of an action item and who is going to speak?

It's so perfect. We got in contact with the Caravan for Justice—the mothers of the women who were killed in Juarez (Mexico)—and they're traveling all the way across the country. Actually, the caravan is coming to Sacramento two weeks after our rally, and one of the organizers is going to speak [at the rally]. There's a resolution before Congress right now asking the U.S. to put pressure on Mexico as far as solving those murders so that's what we're going to ask people to support. We'll have postcards for them to send in and that sort of thing, so that's going to be [more interactive] because in the past [the rally has] been [about] raising awareness, but we haven't had something that we could immediately say "this is something you can help out with right now." And, since it's an election year, we'll also be doing voter registration. We're also having an all-Latina all-punk band play this year—we've always had kind of folksy stuff, so we're trying to branch out a little bit.

What kind of feedback do you get from women who participate?

Actually, this year, one of our committee members is trying to—because it's so grass roots, there's not a lot of written history on [WTBN]—she's going to try and collect all the feedback that she can and put together something based on that. [What we have gotten has] been really positive. [For] a lot of women, it's really powerful for them because it's the first time they've ever spoken in public about what's happened to them. Actually, last year—it's pretty amazing—we were on the march and a woman, just by chance, came out of her apartment. She was fighting with her boyfriend, she was in a domestic violence relationship—[she] was crying, left the situation, walked out and the march came around the corner and it pulled her back to the Capitol. A lot of women have said it's the first time they've seen these kinds of taboo issues talked about in public and its really empowering for them to have a voice, especially [surrounded by] all of these people who are supportive and also be able to say they're angry about the fact that women aren't safe, that we don't have the basic human right of walking around whenever we feel like it, so yeah, most women say its really empowering . . .

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The 25th annual Sacramento Women Take Back The Night marches on...

What other words do they use?

Besides empowering? Let's see . . . just that it's freeing for them to talk about their stories, that's its a supportive environment, and you know, it's not just women who attend, we get some men too, so....

Is the march still for women only?

Yes. It's been a little bit of an argument over the years. We have a men's program specifically now at the Capitol during the time of the march and it's about men's issues and how men can be supportive. The organizers feel strongly that, because women typically have to go out at night with a male companion as protection, or that you feel safer if there is a man there, we want [women] to experience doing that for themselves, and being out at night on their own, and that we appreciate the support of men, but we want the women to experience it for themselves.

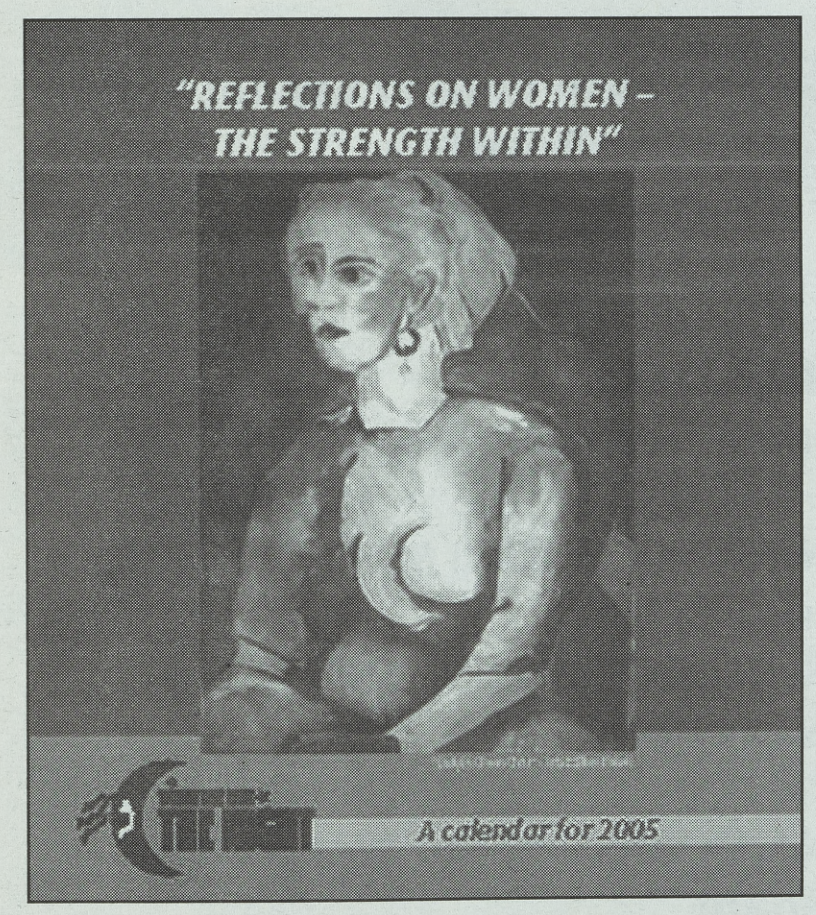
Why is this march still important?

Good question. I think we're really trying to have a global focus this year, and we use the umbrella term violence and that includes so many things in the battle. It can be discouraging that to hear that just in Sacramento that the Sheriff's Department told us they get a call for domestic violence every hour, every day, all year long—that's almost 9,000 calls a year and that's just the reports made. Similarly, there are also about 500 reported rapes in Sacramento County a year—that one per day—and again, that's only the ones that have been recorded, so a small fraction of what's going on, so statistically, violence against women is epidemic. I feel like it's one of the most basic human rights, you know, and women have to deal with this. Women spend so much energy healing from these things that happen to them, rather than having that energy to create and participate and that sort of thing, so I think its...I guess the reason that it is still important today is just because it's still going on and these issues are so complex, and we're starting to include things like sex trafficking—not just domestic violence and sexual assault—sex trafficking and the pornography industry and all these areas that include violence against women . I think [violence against women is] just as prevalent now as it was 25 years ago and it's a matter of keeping that as a front-burner issue, and especially [when] there's an election to make sure that's a focus, because people are going to say "Oh, we've been hearing about that for 20 years—it can't still be a problem" and it definitely still is—I guess the important thing is that we have some changes as a result of all the grass roots efforts so we just want to further that. It's frustrating that it's still the [problem] that it is.

Do you still need volunteers?

Yes, absolutely (laughs). Since we are all volunteers yeah, definitely, I mean, people can get involved as much as they want to on every level. So if people want to be organizers, that's open to them, all the way up to showing up on the night of the event and being a monitor, and seeing what help we need. Everything is volunteer-run, from security at the event all the way up to the organizing levels, so there are many ways to get involved. Also, if people want to get involved, [they can be] individual co-sponsors or donate items to the silent auction.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT, HOW TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER, CALL ORGANIZERS JULIE DAY OR MARYANNE HENKE AT 448-2321, EXT. 250, OR VISIT HTTP://WWW.WOMENTAKEBACKTHENIGHT.ORG.



THE "WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT" 2005 CALENDAR

Women Take Back the Night Stats

1976
The year of the first Women Take Back the Night.

1/60/365
Sacramento police get one domestic violence call every hour every day, 365 days a year.

1 IN 3
Globally, the number of women who have been beaten or sexually abused in their lifetimes.

25
Number of years Take Back the Night has been held in Sacramento, the longest running WTBN in the country.

40+
The number of sponsors participating in this year's Women Take Back the Night in Sacramento.

50%
Approximately half of the sexual assaults committed happen to women under the age of 18.

54
In the state of California, there is one forcible rape every 54 minutes, and one every 6 minutes nationwide.

75
The percentage of victimizations not reported when the offender was a current or former husband.

400
The number of people who attended last year's Take Back the Night march and Rally in Sacramento.

427
The number of reported rapes in Sacramento in 2003, an average of one per day.

9,882
The number of forcible rapes reported to California law enforcement in 2001.
Of those,
83 percent were completed rapes and
17 percent were attempted rapes.

54,000
The number of American women murdered by their domestic partners during the time of the Vietnam War. During that same time period, 58,000 soldiers were killed in action.

THREE TO 10 MILLION
The number of children exposed to domestic violence every year.

*SOURCE—WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT BROCHURE AND STATISTICS COMPILED BY WEAVE FROM VARIOUS NATIONAL AND LOCAL REPORTS.

WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

25TH ANNUAL

MARCH AND RALLY AT STATE CAPITOL

OCT. 2, 2004

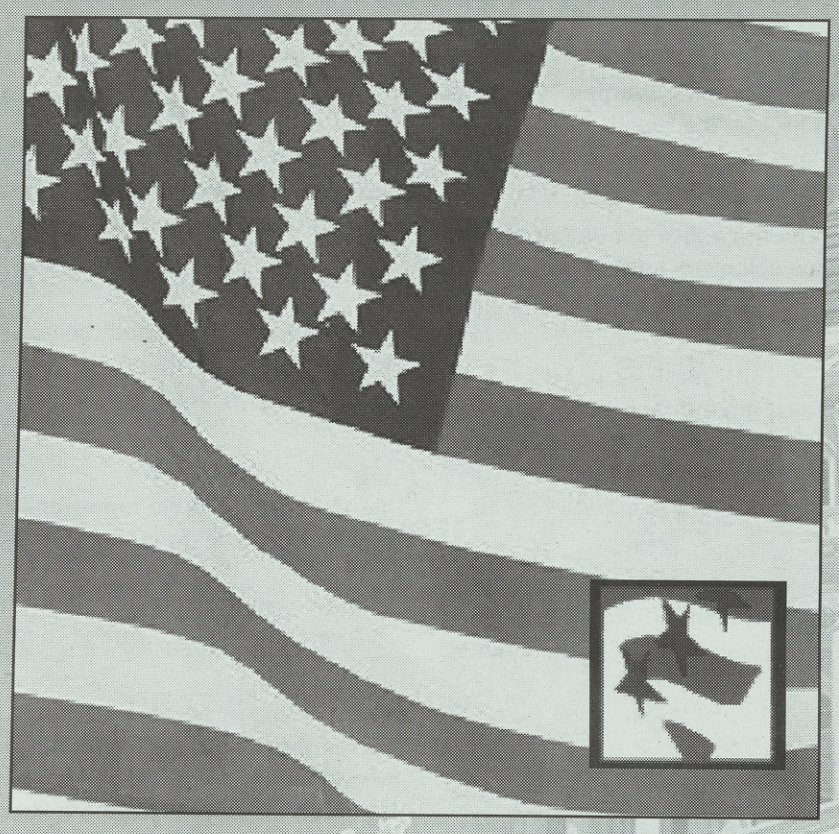
WOMEN AND CHILDREN MARCH THROUGH THE STREETS OF SACRAMENTO IN A SYMBOLIC RECLAIMING OF THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE TO MOVE SAFELY IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Sacramento celebrates its 25th annual Women Take Back the Night, an international grassroots event that protests violence against women worldwide. WTBN of Sacramento proudly announces that Sacramento is the home of the longest continuous running Take Back the Night annual event organizers are aware of. This year's special anniversary program will include an entire month of exciting events, culminating with the March and Rally.

TAIKO DAN—JAPANESE DRUMMING TROUPE
VELVET FURY—ALL FEMALE LATINA PUNK BAND
STRAIGHT OUT SCRIBES—SPOKEN WORD DUO
CARAVAN FOR JUSTICE ORGANIZER—MOTHERS OF WOMEN MURDERED JUAREZ MEXICO
SPEAKER FROM EL SALVADOR—MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY FROM CENTRAL AMERICA
MEN'S & CHILDREN'S PROGRAM—FAMILIES WELCOME!
SELF DEFENSE DEMONSTRATION—WITH MIDGE MARINO
DRUM CIRCLE—(BRING YOUR OWN DRUM)
COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR—WITH OVER 30 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

WEST STEPS OF THE STATE CAPITOL
7 PM RALLY; 9 PM MARCH
WWW.WOMENTAKEBACKTHENIGHT.ORG

STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF GREATER SACRAMENTO



The Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento is pleased to announce their endorsement for candidates that will be before the voters for the November, 2004 election. Stonewall sent questionnaires with issues affecting the LGBT community to all candidates running for local office and then interviewed the candidates.

"These Democratic candidates have a proven record of advocating for and supporting the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community," said Daniel Roth, President of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento. "We must vote this November for candidates for every level of office, from president to school board members, who support civil rights for LGBT Americans."

After many hours of discussion, Stonewall members endorsed the following candidates and donated a total of $11,000 to their campaigns:

2004 ELECTIONS ENDORSEMENT

President of the United States
John Kerry

United States Senator
Barbara Boxer

United States Congress
3rd District
Gabe Castillo

5th District
Bob Matsui

California State Senate
1st District
Kristine Lang-Mcdonald

California State Assembly
9th District
Dave Jones

Elk Grove City Council
District 3
Mary Addi

Elk Grove Community District
Gil Albiani

SMUD Director
Ward 2
Susan Patterson

Sacramento Metro Fire
Division 2
Joe Gibson
Division 6
Mike Duveneck

Los Rios Community College Governing Board
Area 7
Kay Albiani

Elk Grove Unified School District
Area 6
Fusako Yokotobi

Sacramento Unified School District Governing Board
Full Term
Ellyne Bell
Short Term
Jerry Houseman

Natomas Unified School District
Jennifer Baker
Ron Dwyer-Voss
Susan Heredia

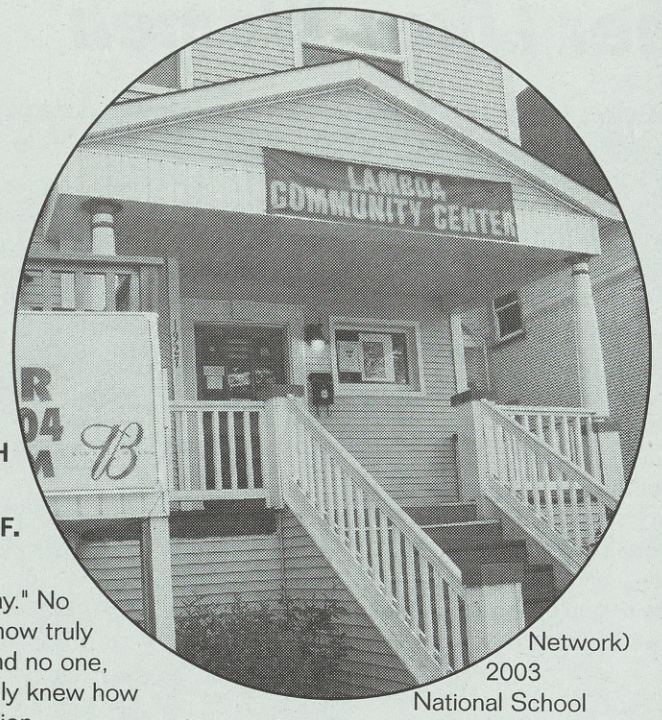
North Sacramento District School Board
Patrick Cody
Linda Fowler

PAID ADVERTISEMENT
PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Lambda COMMUNITY CENTER

Intros All 'Round

Q-Ragg's new Lambda Center Page Editor & Youth Rep., Lindsey Young, a senior at McClatchy High School takes a few moments to introduce herself.



I was introduced to the Lambda Community Center while researching for a newspaper article about LGBT inclusive places. Support and activism groups meet at the location, and activities such as Lambda Freedom Fair and GSA Leadership Training are hosted by the Center.

I first stepped into the Center in late September this year, and was surprised and touched by the relaxing atmosphere of the main meeting room and kitchen. It was a home away from home. And Jason, the person who greeted me, was wonderfully friendly. I'll keep you updated the next time I enter the building at 21st and L St. In the meantime, Lambdasac.org features a calendar of meetings and events.

Seventeen years old and a Senior at McClatchy High, I enjoy science fiction and Glamour, listen to Britney Spears (however horrible I may claim her to be), complete schoolwork, and experience those rites of passages, like driving.

But the past two years, I have had one passion, one focus: LGBT community and issues. My first epiphany moment happened after I googled the word "gay," out of curiosity, to see what all these people were talking about (LGBT activists, though didn't think about terms at the time). I was led to the Lambda Legal website, lambdalegal.org, which informed that same-sex couples were denied over 1000 legal rights since marriage was not an option. I was appalled, and then and there made the mental commitment that denial of such liberties was cruel and wrong.

When I was 13 and in junior high, a fellow student put a petition up for a GSA. Everyone in class was frightened to sign, which really bugged me. I didn't understand sexual orientation, the legal struggles, or anything similar, but I did know that there was nothing to be afraid of. Somehow, I instinctively knew that being gay wasn't "bad." So I signed the paper, the first signature, and thus became member and later President.

Fast forward to summer, and my house is vandalized twice with eggs, toilet paper, a taped mailbox, and spray paint words reading FAG, PUSSY, and Fuck you GSA. Later I found out that harassing phone calls had been made as well, with requests to speak to me. Going back to school with that experience, and as a new member of my school's LGSA (Lesbian Gay Straight Alliance), I felt lost and alone. Hearing "that's so gay," among other derogatory phrases and words, with zero response from teachers made for a unsettling atmosphere. I was called "fruit" and received from a girl who claimed I was looking at her "the wrong way." No one seemed to understand how truly horrible homophobia was, and no one, not even close friends, openly knew how to sympathize with my situation.

Now, as Vice President of McClatchy LGSA, I can help students who are in much worse situations. I am heterosexual and nontransgendered, act in an acceptable way for my "gender role," and my parents are supportive of my advocacy.

Two of my buddies, a lesbian couple, can't kiss in public without feeling afraid, and one of them lies to her parents so they can hang out. At Driver's Ed class, a guy who is openly gay said that his favorite grandfather had disowned him, and that most classmates automatically "hated" him. One openly lesbian girl was constantly pushed in the halls, and her locker was defamed for months before anyone took action. The peers with "masculine" or "feminine" outfits face ridicule and exclusion. Of course, there's an inkling that at least a few peers around who are gay, lesbian, etc, but not admitting it, and are dating people of opposite genders to convince themselves and others.

These are the often silent struggles, but statistics reveal the common place reality of such situations. According to GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network) 2003 National School Climate Survey, as summarized on glsen.org: LGBT youth who report significant verbal harassment are twice as likely to report they do not intend to go to college and their GPAs are significantly lower (2.9 vs. 3.3).

- **24.1% of LGBT students who cannot identify supportive faculty report they have no intention of going to college. That figure drops to just 10.1% when LGBT students can identify supportive staff at their school.**
- **LGBT students who did not have (or did not know of) a policy protecting them from violence and harassment were nearly 40% more likely to skip school because they were simply too afraid to go.**
- **84% of LGBT students report being verbally harassed because of their sexual orientation. 82.9% of students report that faculty never or rarely intervene when present.**

Studies also suggest that LGBT youth are more likely than their heterosexual peers to engage in alcoholism and substance abuse. Research from 1999 shows that gay youth may be 6 times more likely than their heterosexual peers to to attempt suicide.

LGBT youth can positively affect their schools, their city, the social climates, if those in charge, those with power, offer safe and accepting environments. The same girl I mentioned who was harassed at school and had her locker damaged is now a very proud and very active member of numerous organizations. The day Mayor Newsom announced same-sex couples could marry, she was covered in MECA (Marriage Equality California) stickers, and was jumping up and down with glee. "Yea! I am so happy today! I'm gay!"

Lambda Center is a great place for youth or any other LGBT and allied communities to express, learn and connect. As Executive Director Robert Brodie said over the phone, "Lambda Center tries to provide a safe environment for LGBTI community, where resources and support are offered."

LYOUNG@Q-RAGG.COM

My Mother Likes Women

Judd: I really enjoyed *My Mother Likes Women*. The story is about three women and their mother who has developed a lesbian relationship with a foreign girl the same age as the daughters. The daughters freak out and try and break up the relationship. The characters and story are fun and well developed. I thought the lesbianism was more of a subplot than anything else, but the movie worked.

Swanner: I liked it a lot as well. It's funny that all the features have storylines that have been done before, but not done better. It's true that the lesbianism is more of a subplot, but it's still what motivates the daughters and it's still at the heart of this film. Usually, this movie is made with a father taking on a young mistress so it's a nice change from that. I also thought the acting was quite good. I'm not a huge foreign language film fan but this one grabbed me and really drew me in.

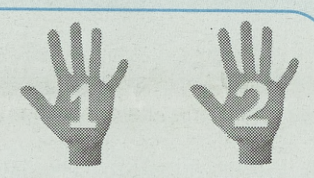
Judd: I really like foreign films. I think they focus more on a good story than pretty faces and scenery. Not only that, but the sexual politics of foreign countries reflects in their movies, and it's comforting to know that not everyone is as f---ed up as The States are. But I'll get off my soap-box..... There is nothing new about this story; it's been done many times before, but what I like about this rendition is the fact that while the daughters are trying to do a bad thing, they're so screwed up themselves that you can't take what they're doing seriously—even though they succeed to an extent.

Swanner: The daughters get so into their underhandedness that they lose track of their own lives, and in some ways themselves. There are some really good life lessons to be learned in the film, mostly "live and let live". I do like the way the film is a drama but still very funny. I don't think we see that done successfully in this country too often. I'm sure Miramax will remake this movie and ruin it by making it a slapstick comedy.

Judd: I give the film two bitchslaps. I liked it. It's a story that's been done to death, this time with a lesbian twist. The acting and characters are good, but I just don't think it will hold up over time.

Swanner: I feel it will, especially after it's been remade (badly) for American audiences. I'll give it a single bitch slap for its recycled story but with a lesbian twist.

BITCH SLAPS



SWANNER JUDD

TOM SWANNER

"I really liked *Flowers from the Heartland* best of the documentaries, it made me cry...a few times. My favorite short was *Little Black Boot* and I loved *Eating Out*. All in all, I think they have a terrific line-up with plenty of diversity. There should really be something for everyone, even crabby old queens...like you."

"Old
age. Th
like
tear as
allergic
My fav

SHORTS

short films get short reviews

FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN WILDFLOWERS
JUDD-ODD • SWANNER-ENDLESS

LITTLE BLACK BOOT
JUDD-TIRED • SWANNER-FAVORITE

A WOMAN REPORTED
JUDD-OBTUSE • SWANNER-INTERESTING

INTENT
JUDD-IMPASSIVE • SWANNER-EDGY

STRAIGHT IN THE FACE
JUDD-CONVOLUTED • SWANNER-HILARIOUS

HUMMER
JUDD-SEXY • SWANNER-FUNNY

THE NEARLY UNADVENTUROUS LIFE OF ZOE CADWAULDER
JUDD-QUIRKY • SWANNER-GOOD

BREAKING UP REALLY SUCKS
(FRIDAY NIGHT SHORT)
JUDD-FUN • SWANNER-FINE

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS
(FRIDAY NIGHT SHORT)
JUDD-DIFFERENT • SWANNER-FORGETTABLE

FOREVER BOTTOM
(SATURDAY NIGHT SHORT)
JUDD-UNCOMFORTABLE • SWANNER-EMBARRASSING

FREUD SLIPS
(SATURDAY NIGHT SHORT)
JUDD-POINTLESS • SWANNER-CLEVER

OVERALL BITCHSLAPS SWAN: 1 JUDD 2

Swanner &

REVIEW SIGL

THE FOLKS WHO MAKE SIGLFF HAPPEN

PRESIDENT
DAVID VAN DER GRIFF
TREASURER
LOU CAMERA
SECRETARY
JAY CAMPBELL
DIRECTOR
DAVID LINK

PROGRAMMING CHAIR
PATTI BARCENA
PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
TERRY O'BRIEN
AILEEN LAUER
MICHAEL DENNIS
KEVIN NGUYEN
MARKETING DIRECTOR
KEVIN COHEE
DO AN EVENT
MEMBER
MATT BENTON
PUBLICITY
STEPHEN KULIEKE
TEALA SCHAFF
LOGO DESIGNER
REECE METZGER
WEBMASTER
JOHN BOUBION
VIDEO PRODUCTION
AL NEIGHORN
EVENT COORDINATION
SHARON SAMPSEL
DESIGN & LAYOUT
UPTOWN STUDIOS
VOLUNTEERS
DOUG BENGE
MARK SPRATT
RICHARD FARSHLER

Judd: The third feature of this
Memory—another foreign film, t
12 people couple and break up
the pieces fall into place at the e
when the film opened up with a
and the 60's coloured (with a "u
This movie is worth it for the mu
Nova who wants to hear Jobim
Bebel Gilberto or even Elis Regi
be bought at www.goldfishmemo

Swanner: My have you done a
the soundtrack...I guess it's a go

Judd: Yes, it's amazing how my
hateful shrew.

Swanner: I liked the film. It has
lot of different people crossing p
the other film did and I have to a
all in one film. I also have realize
as well as the film—the
film's shot like it's try-
ing to improve tourism.
And yes the sound-
track is very memo-
rable.

Judd: At first, the only thing to
going to be just another flimsy ro
kept getting more and more mixe
to end? Who is going to end up
which usually isn't my kind of en
lost myself in this movie and enj
Not to mention Fiona O'Shaugne
voice and that mild accent made
very much of Astrud Gilberto's s
the soundtrack was mostly Jobin
voice of Bossa Nova.

Swanner: I also thought the co
comedy so I guess they would b
film, well done, with a good cast.
worry me, but I digress. As much
film never really wowed me. I'm n
hilarious lines. I'm giving this two bitchslaps, it's good—not great. I

Judd: I really liked this film—beyond the soundtrack even. I tho
ing. The way the professor fell apart when he met a girl he co
interesting. The failed threesomes. The way the couples m
even the strong characters had overwhelming moments
movie sound better than what it really was, so I'll rat
1 1/2 bitch slaps. And the soundtrack would ge
zero.

"Old? This coming from someone my father's age. There is a diverse choice of films this year. I liked *Flowers from the Heartland*, and shed a tear as well. And no, it was not a psychosomatic allergic reaction to all the flowers on the screen. My favorite short was *Hummer*. And my favorite feature was *Goldfish Memory*."

BRIAN JUDD

ner & Judd GLFF

third feature of this Film Festival is *Goldfish*
nother foreign film, this one from Dublin. In this film
ouple and break up like a mosaic brainteaser until all
all into place at the end. I was enchanted from the start
m opened up with a unique version of Jobim's *Once I Loved*
coloured (with a "u" because the film is Irish) title screens.
s worth it for the music alone. Anyone who is a fan of Bossa
vants to hear Jobim tunes done by someone other than Astrud or
to or even Elis Regina, the soundtrack will blow you away and can
t www.goldfishmemory.com. You can bet I've ordered my copy.

My have you done a 180 from your last review. Getting all fussy over
ck...I guess it's a good thing if it calms you down.

it's amazing how my mood can lighten when I'm not being compared to a
w.

liked the film. It has the same basic storyline as last year's *Love Actually*. A
nt people crossing paths until all the pieces fit. But this works better than
n did and I have to admit it was nice having gay, lesbian and straight stories
n. I also have realized that I need to go to Dublin. It's just beautiful—the city
e film—the
ke it's try-
ve tourism.
sound-
memo-

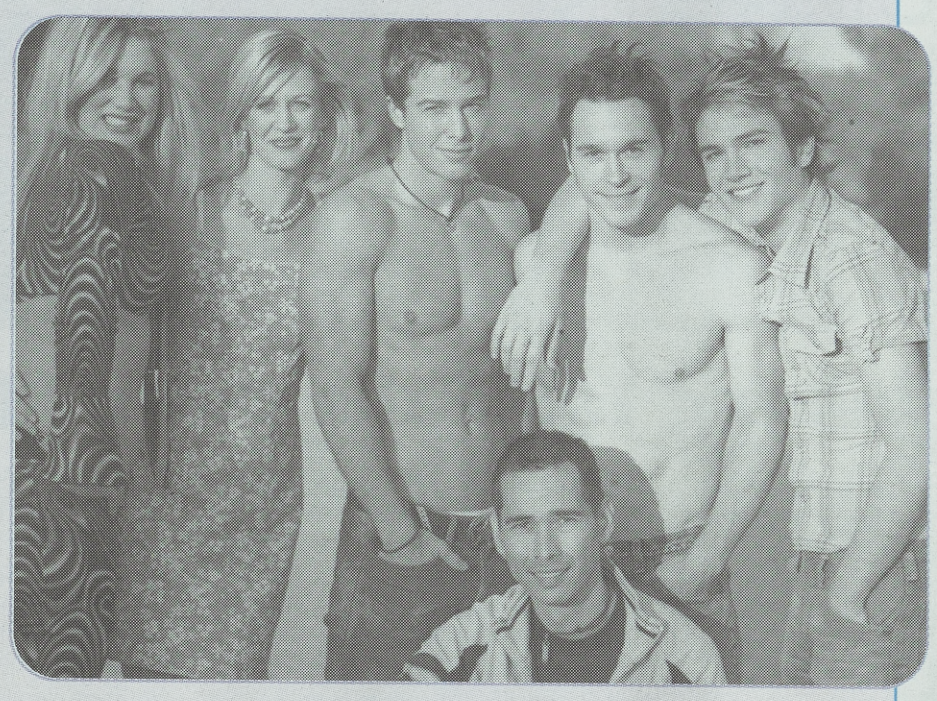
GOLDFISH MEMORY

st, the only thing to grab my attention was the soundtrack, I thought this was
ust another flimsy romantic comedy. But as the movie progressed and things
more and more mixed up I kept wondering to myself, "How is this thing going
is going to end up with whom?" Everyone does end up with somebody,
isn't my kind of ending, and in hindsight the pairings are a bit obvious. But I
this movie and enjoyed all the couplings and breakups and breakdowns.
on Fiona O'Shaugnessy who plays the very cute, and very sexy, Clara. Her
at mild accent made her so alluring. In fact, her speaking voice reminded
Astrud Gilberto's singing voice. It has to be more than coincidence that
ck was mostly Jobim music and one character's voice sounded like the
sa Nova.

also thought the couplings were obvious but then it's a light romantic
guess they would be. So all *in all Goldfish Memory* is a sweet little
e, with a good cast. This soundtrack thing with you is starting to
t I digress. As much as I enjoyed the movie as I watched it, the
lly wowed me. I'm not reworking scenes in my head or reciting
s good—not great. I still want to go to Dublin. Gwen?

undtrack even. I thought all the characters were interest-
he met a girl he couldn't make fall in love with him was
way the couples met and got together. The way
whelming moments. I'm probably making this
really was, so I'll rate it
oundtrack would get

BITCH SLAPS
SWANNER 2 JUDD 1



Eating Out

Judd: As you can tell, we've had very different views on the movies this year, and *Eating Out* is no exception. *Eating Out* has to be one of the worst, least plausible, spiteful, and hateful gay movies that I have ever seen. I couldn't stand this movie. But I'm sure Tom has a different view.

Swanner: In fact I do. I thought it was hysterical. I will give you that the plot is a bit out there, but I was willing to believe that Dustin Hoffman could pass as a woman in *Tootsie,* so I was willing to believe this story. The story follows Kyle and Caleb. Kyle, who is Gay, has a crush on Marc. Caleb, who is straight, has a thing for Gwen, Marc's roommate/fag hag. The problem here is that Marc likes Caleb who is pretending to be gay so he can get close to Gwen, who has a thing for the gay boys. If you think that sounds complicated...wait until you see the film. I've seen this storyline before but I've never seen it done this well or this funny. I was laughing through the whole movie.

Judd: I was cringing through the whole movie. None of the characters are likable. Each one is a conniving, screw-up who lies and cheats to get the person they are after to fall in love with them; Gwen's character being the worst. I hated her. I hated the way she talked; the way she looked—I hated everything about her. The whole time I was watching this I kept thinking, "Never mind being a fag hag, how does this girl have any friends at all?" There would be no way in the world that I would put up with the s--t she pulled.

Swanner: I thought Gwen was the best character. I thought she was the real stand out and her character had all the great lines. Actually I should say that Gwen is the best role in the film and Emily Stiles who played the character outshines this very likeable cast which includes Jim Verraros (*American Idol Season One*) & Ryan Carnes (*General Hospital*) I might not have like all the characters, but the wonderful funny script gave them all something to say and gave me a reason to follow them. They are all conniving and screwed up but then again if they were all perfect people this would be a soap opera and not this gem of a film.

Judd: Oh, puh-leeze! Gwen was crazy! I kept waiting for her to get her comeuppance. A slap, a punch in the face, a royal bitching-out—something. There would be no way in the world I would let anyone treat me the way Gwen treated everyone. It wasn't funny. It wasn't cute. She was a bitch, and I still don't understand why she had friends that were willing to put up with her. And the dialogue was horrible. Q. Allan Brocka, the screenwriter and director, must hold himself in high-esteem if he thought he could use some of those awful lines and think they were actually funny. "She seems Etcha-Sketchy." "If you've never tricked with a chick, are you sure you pick dick?" I love movies with stylized dialogue, but this one failed miserably.

Swanner: You've completely missed the boat on this one. It's supposed to be fun. Maybe you were expecting a drama, or maybe you're just too bitter to enjoy a light romantic comedy, or possibly the Gwen character is too much like yourself. And let's face it, no one likes the way they look in a mirror.

Judd: WHAT!!! Oh, you are so lucky that you are no where near me right now! I can't believe you would... How could you say I... Horrible! You're HORRIBLE!

Swanner: I thought the script was wonderful and granted the film does have an independent feel, but it's the one film I'd want to own out of all of these. I liked what Brocka did with *Rick & Steve: The Happiest Gay Couple In All The World* and I look forward to his next project.

Judd: All right, I've lit my serenity candles. I am now calm, cool and collected. And I did a little research. When Brocka introduced this film at the Philadelphia International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (PIGLFF?) he said the budget was $50,000 and the movie was shot in ten days. All right, I'm done talking about this trash. You've upset me and I just want to rate this thing and be done with it. On a scale of one to five bitch-slaps, I give this movie 15 bitchslaps. Five for each character. No, make it 20—five for Q. Allan Brocka. And five bitchslaps to you for saying what you did!

Swanner: My goodness, I guess what I said hit close to home. *snap-snap* I'll give it zero bitchslaps considering I had such a good time with it and I've already told you that it's the one film in the festival I'd want to own. But also because I know you hated it so much, that me giving it zero bitchslaps will really piss you off. I can't wait to see it again!

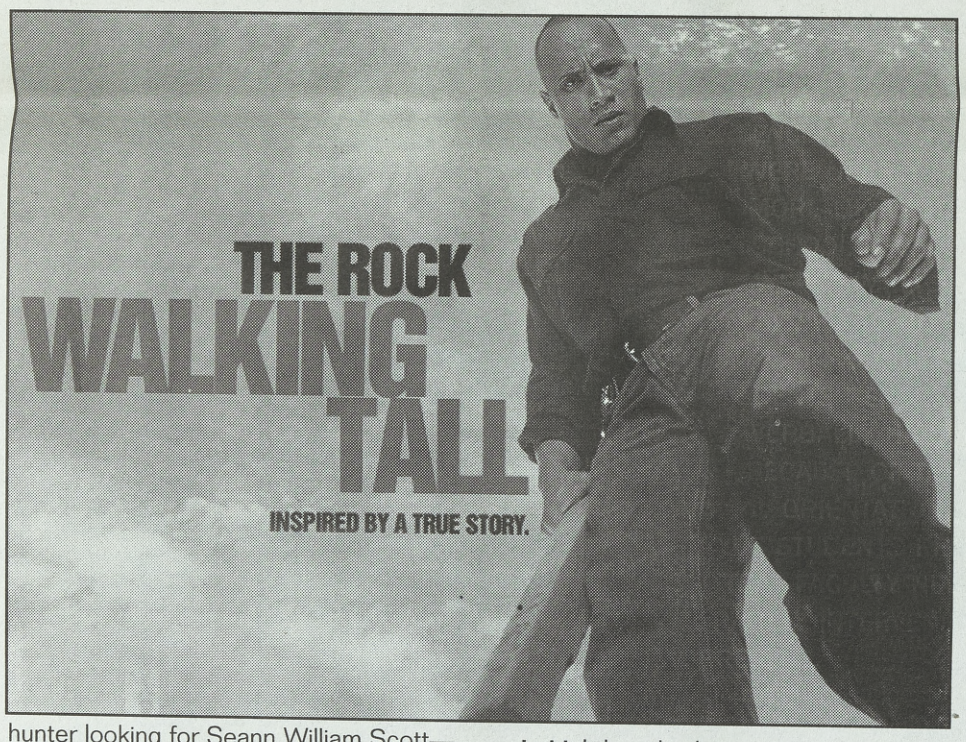
BITCH SLAPS
SWANNER 0 JUDD 5

Q SWANNER & JUDD 16

Walking Tall Falls down Flat

Judd: Last night we watched another brilliant Tom Swanner choice—*Walking Tall*. Starring The Rock (*The Mummy Returns, The Scorpion King*), cute-in-a-trashy-way Johnny Knoxville (*Jackass, Jackass:The Movie*) and Neal McDonough (*Boomtown, Band of Brothers*). While the movie was short, not so sweet, and to the point, you know right from the beginning what audience this movie is trying to target. It is nothing more than an 80-minute testosterone boost. After the movie my balls were an actual size bigger and I wanted to go deer hunting.

Swanner: I'm glad you liked it as much as I did. Right from the start I was amazed at how good the Rock looked. You can tell that he really pumped up for the film. That's not to say that he wasn't looking good in his last two films; *The Rundown*, where he played a bounty hunter looking for Seann William Scott—like who wouldn't be—he was buffed, and in the *Scorpion King* where he was half naked throughout the film, he looked great. But there was something in this that just worked better for me.



Judd: Wait, wait, wait! I didn't say I liked the film. Yes, The Rock did look amazing—though he was only shirtless for one scene, which wasn't nearly long enough. But again the target audience was young, straight men, and I'm sure the only reason they showed him without his shirt was for the girlfriends that were dragged along.

Swanner: You didn't like the movie?

Judd: I suppose if I was jonesing for explosions, gunfire and old-fashioned ass-whooping then, yes, I would have liked the film more. Usually that's not my thing. What is interesting to note that Sheriff Buford Pusser, the man who inspired this movie, was a wrestler in the late 50s. He was 6'6" and 250. The Rock is 6'5" and 255. This is about where the similarities end. The real Pusser was the sheriff of a backwater burg in Tennessee who gained fame for busting moonshine stills, illegal card rooms, and local prostitution. Wow, those people sound like the target audience of *Walking Tall*.

Swanner: I remember the original film, staring Joe Don Baker in the leading role, very well. I know it's based on real happenings, but, I'm just glad they changed his name in this film. Buford Pusser, what is that all about? I would have changed my name at 18 if my name were Buford Pusser. This time around the character is named Chris Vaughn. Isn't that a nice name? He's ex-military coming back home and discovering that his hometown has changed. There are a lot of bad elements that have tainted this town and the sheriff's office is being paid to look the other way. That's when The Rock vows to clean up the town by becoming the new sheriff and he sure fits the uniform well.

Judd: I thought the movie was too short. That doesn't make sense because I always fast forward over the fighting, but I wanted to see more story between Vaughn and his family. Why was his father so against him being an soldier? Why were his guns locked up in the garage? There were too many interesting plot points that were glossed over. Yeah, and I liked the fact that when The Rock became sheriff, the new uniform was tight black slacks and a tight black shirt. Buford Pusser—that is an awful name. I wonder how it's pronounced? Puss-er. Puh-ser. Poohsay. Anyway it comes off the lips it's not pleasant.

Swanner: I'm not saying it's a great movie and yes I would have like it to go on longer, and maybe included a shower scene, or a swim up at the lake?

Judd: I don't understand why screenwriters chose to destroy The Rock's most valuable feature. In real life Pusser was shot in the face and had to undergo 16 reconstructive surgeries. I don't know why they felt they had to slice The Rock up like that—it was like they were guaranteeing they weren't going to show him half naked anymore. Maybe that was the point. Maybe the producers knew that if The Rock went shirtless too much and too often that it would make the hillbillies in the audience too uncomfortable with their own repressed desires. Though he's wearing nothing but coconut oil and Speedos in the *WWE* ring.

Swanner: I'm not really sure what you're trying to say. After the words "The Rock" and "naked", I lost consciousness.

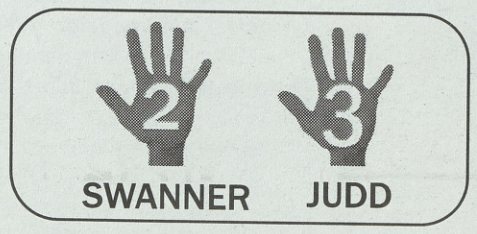
Judd: Really? Your eyes rolled back only after the word "naked." That was easy. I thought I was going to get you with speedos and coconut oil.

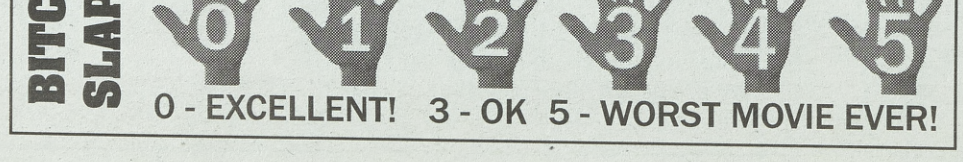
Swanner: Yummy! There are a lot of unanswered questions but it was still entertaining. It's an action picture so I wasn't expecting a lot of story. The fight sequences are good and the Rock is turning out to be a pretty good actor. Did I mention how great he looked?

Judd: You know I was impressed with The Rock's acting, as well; I wasn't expecting much. I didn't see him in *Scorpion King* and I figure he's a professional 'rassler and the last really famous wrestler to make movies was Hulk Hogan—so you can imagine the caliber I was expecting. I thought he did a good job and I look forward to seeing him in other movies. Maybe something like a homosexual action film where The Rock and Vin Diesel are crime-fighting lovers.

Swanner: OK...where am I? What happened? Now you're just teasing me. I'm going to give it two bitchslaps because when you have a man like the Rock you need that shirt to be ripped off during the action sequences—all of them.

Judd: Yeah, I knew you'd like that. I'll rate this bad boy 3 bitchslaps. I thought it was OK for what it was, but I think they missed out on some very important and interesting subplots. I also think that it was fantastic that they had an interracial family that wasn't dealing with inner-city gang violence or racism. I just had to throw that out there. But in the end, I think the movie felt rushed and fell flat.





Ladykillers is D.O.A.

Judd: When Tom told me that we were going to review the Coen Brothers' film *The Ladykillers* I was excited. I'd wanted to see the film when it was in theaters, but wasn't able. Now that I've actually seen the film—I'm glad I didn't waste my money. This isn't the same kind of smart, funny, irreverent, witty film the Coen Brothers are known for producing. In fact, it seemed to me that they were trying to reconstruct the silver-tongued Southerner character they created in *O Brother Where Art Thou?*. Only they dropped the ball big time.

Swanner: If you really look at Coen Brothers' films, they all have a slower pacing so I expected it to be slow—but not this slow. I'd seen the original version of *The Ladykillers*. I was also expecting it to be funny—but it's not. Oh, sure, you have those three or four scenes that were in the previews, but over all...snooze city.

Judd: Their movies are slower-paced than what the American movie-goer is accustomed to these days, but their characters are usually so engaging that you don't mind. They are the masters of the character born from a caricature. I usually love Coen Brothers' films and I'm trying to remember what specifically I didn't like about this film. The only answer I can come up with is EVERYTHING! If I didn't know that they wrote and directed, I would have thought this was an attempt to rip-off their style.

Swanner: Well, I'm not a fan and I've only liked a few of their movies. I was hoping this was going to be one I would like and oddly enough, I liked the acting and the story. I think the fault lies with the Coens. Whether it was the script or the direction, I was totally bored with this film. I kept hoping they'd just kill the old lady so the movie would be over. I don't think that's what they were hoping audiences would want. Oh, look, I'm yawning just thinking about the movie.

Judd: I liked the story, but not the acting. The only decent character was Garth Pancake played by J.K. Simmons (*Oz, Spiderman*). The rest of the ensemble did nothing for me. Hanks, as the verbose Professor Dorr, was too over the top. There was plenty of wordy dialogue like in *O Brother Where Art Thou?*, but it wasn't as slick or as polished as the Coens probably thought they were being. It felt like a hackneyed remake. In

Guys Gone Wild is a wild time for all

By Tom Swanner/Q-Ragg

THERE ARE FEW MOVIES THAT MAKE PEOPLE SHUDDER AS THOUGH SOMEONE IS WALKING OVER YOUR GRAVE.

Let me start off by saying that I normally wouldn't be reviewing this kind of DVD. Actually, I wouldn't even watch a film like this, but I did it for all of you who depend on my advice to make sure you know what you're getting into before you toss down some cash. No, really, I swear!

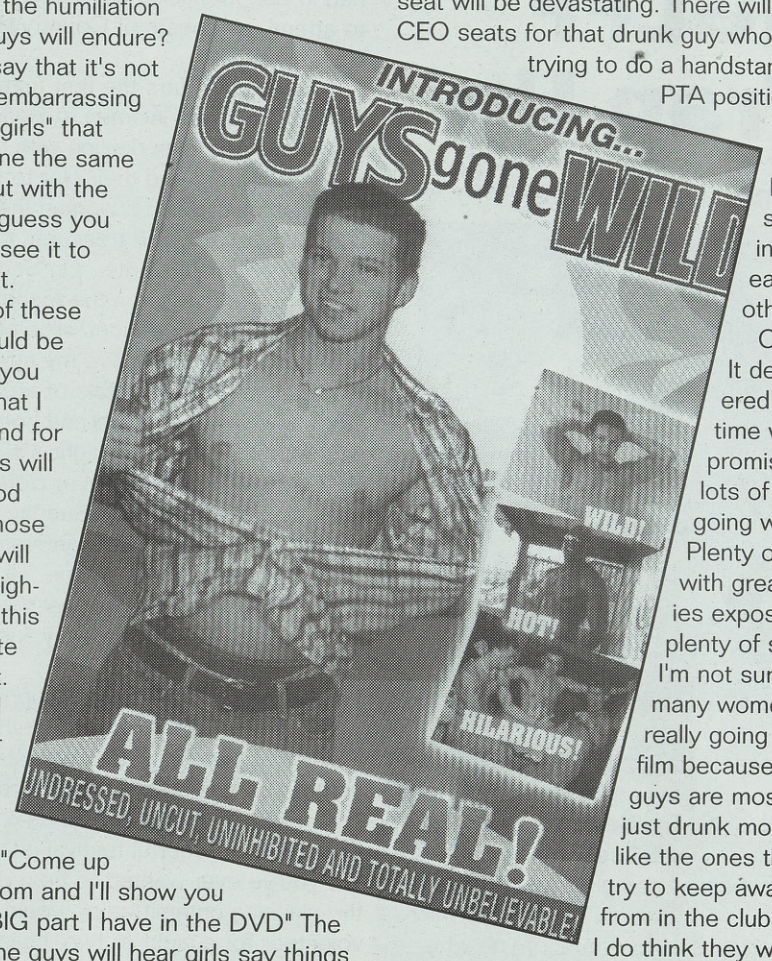
I have been hearing about the release of *Guys Gone Wild* for months now. How this was a chance for women to watch the men act like idiots and expose themselves so all can see. Anyone that watches late night television has seen the tired old *Girls Gone Wild* commercials. I used to have to watch these commercials while waiting for *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* to come back on, and saying to myself "too bad they don't have a *Guys Gone Wild*". Now they do and though it's hard to find, but it's out there. I can't imagine many retailers carrying it, but look around. If you can't find it there, try www.guysgonewild.com where you can find three different *Guys Gone Wild* DVDs.

Four girls running around with a camcorder and a sign that says *Girls Gone Wild* is what is used to attract the plethora of straight, male college students. So the quality of the film and the art of the photography is not high art—or any art for that matter.

As the DVD starts out they tease us with a few quick shots of what to expect. Frankly, I thought this was going to be a tame version of *Girls Gone Wild* but with guys. That's not it at all! Within the first couple minutes you realize that this is going to be a wienerfest. The camera crew starts out with a few butt shoots and guys pounding their chests screaming "GUYS GONE WILD!" Yawn, right? That's the tease. That's the guy that knocks on the door in a police uniform claiming that there's been reports of loud music and before you know it he's in a jockstrap dancing to Donna Summer's *Bad Girls.*

Before long they have guys dropping their shorts and tossing the football naked. My favorite scene is when these filmmakers coax these guys to jump up and down on the bed naked and say "hey, spank each other" and they do. It just confirms the fact that a six-pack still can make a straight guy "bi-curious" in a matter of seconds.

The one thing that was going through my mind...no not that…I kept thinking about what these poor guys were going to do when this DVD is released and viewed on the campus they are attending? Or what about mom's best friend who recognizes "little Billy" and finds that he's not so little anymore? Can you imagine the humiliation these guys will endure? Not to say that it's not equally embarrassing for the "girls" that have done the same thing, but with the guys...I guess you have to see it to believe it.



Some of these guys could be stars, if you know what I mean, and for them this will be a good thing. Those scenes will be the highlights in this 60-minute fleshfest. They will undoubtedly use this as a dating service. "Come up to my room and I'll show you what a BIG part I have in the DVD" The rest of the guys will hear girls say things like..."it's not the ship, but the motion in the ocean." The little dick jokes that will follow them as the have remove their name out of the running for that senate seat will be devastating. There will be no CEO seats for that drunk guy who keeps trying to do a handstand, or PTA positions for the boys spanking each other.

Overall, It delivered big time what it promised: lots of guys going wild. Plenty of guys with great bodies exposing plenty of skin. I'm not sure if many women are really going to like film because these guys are mostly just drunk morons, like the ones they try to keep away from in the clubs. But I do think they will like seeing the cool stuck up guys that may treat them like crap, get their comeuppance.

It's sweet revenge for all those guys who get girls drunk and seduce them into doing things they don't want to do. The camera has been turned and these guys will pay. For what it is, I have to give it zero bitch slaps. It delivers, and *for the most part there is a wide variety of guys so everyone should be happy. Is* it worth the money? If you've been really waiting to see it then you won't be disappointed.

BITCH SLAPS 2

LADYKILLERS CONTINUED

fact this movie was so unfunny and boring that I can't even think of a funny jab to make.

Swanner: There was nothing funny. I was sitting with a lot of blue-haireds and even they weren't laughing—and I'm sure many of them had seen the original and that's why they were there. I actually liked the over the top acting, it was the script and the direction that was lacking. How long could that first boring cat scene go on?

Judd: I HATED that cat, and it was supposed to be a minor character, but I don't think he was needed.

Swanner: I was thinking about switching theatres and seeing *Scooby Doo 2.* (Shudder.) The Coens work as a team—shouldn't at least one of them noticed that this was not funny? The one thing we can agree on (beside the script stinking) is that this film will not be lacking of is bitchslaps!

Judd: That's true! In fact, we usually breakdown the plot at the beginning, but this was so boring it's not worth the effort. Hanks was too much and I couldn't understand a lot of what he said—I think the partial he was wearing muffled his words. I give this film four bitchslaps. The only reason I didn't give it five was because there were a couple laugh-out-loud moments, but they were few and far between.

Swanner: I think the reason I liked Tom Hanks was because he reminded me of Colonel Sanders. I'm pretty sure I got some KFC right after I watched the movie…extra crispy I think. I'm giving it four bitchslaps—just like the ones the landlady gives Marlon Wayans in the film. Only when I do it, I'll be saying, "I want my nine dollars back!"

4 4

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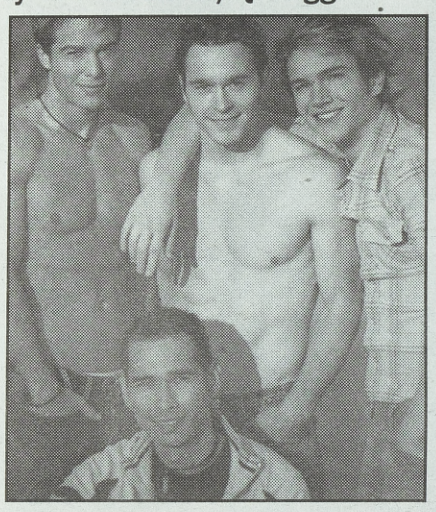
...Swanner & Judd Continued...

SIGLFF Wrap Up

By Tom Swanner/Q-Ragg



Our community has one of its pre-miere events coming up in October: The Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (SIGLFF). We all complain that there's never anything to do in this town—which is ridiculous—but for those of you who chant this mantra, this is one event you shouldn't miss. Not only should you not miss it, but you should be there to support it as one of the biggest and best cultural events of the year for our Q-munity.

SIGLFF starts this year on October 6, 2004 with the always spectacular Shorts Night. I always look forward to the *Shorts Night because film festivals are just about the only* place we get to see some of these brilliant films. As a past film section chair, I know that the Shorts Night is always the hardest to construct.

"Some filmmakers send us films, we browse other film festival websites, attend other film festivals and talk to many filmmakers," says Patti Barcena, current programming chair. "There are several distribution companies in the United States, Canada and Australia that we contact. We've gotten a number of films from *Frameline* and *Power Up*."

The process starts as soon as the film festival ends. Most of the programming has to be done months ahead of time, and some films have very few prints, so being timely is very important. Where festivals in larger cities have sometimes weeks to fill, SIGLFF runs only five days, so the films shown are almost always the best of the best.

"I love Shorts Night...and this year we have a good mix," comments Barcena.

Thursday night is Documentary Night and the theme this year is marriage. This last February, we all experienced San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's bold statement for the legalization of gay marriages. Although we know how the story ended thus far, how it began still touches our hearts and we can relive that time again through these documentaries.

"I really like the films we are showing on the events about the gay marriage movement in San Francisco," Barcena confides.

The three films are three very different stories about those events and they are all touching and well done—it should be a great night. I always love documentaries because they educate and remind us of our history and the contributions made by gays and lesbians to our larger community.

Assemblymen Mark Leno will be in attendance, as well as the *Freedom to Marry* filmmakers. Also, all of the 100+ couples from Sacramento that got married in San Francisco have been invited to attend as guests of Countrywide Home Loans.

Friday night offers the first feature film *My Mother Likes Women*. A Spanish film about a woman dealing with her three daughters and their plot to split up her relationship with a woman their age. Lou Camera, SIGLFF treasurer, calls the film "a personal favorite.: On Saturday,

Eating Out is next on the menu. This film promises "a delicious slice of college beefcake" (you have my attention) "mixed into a hilarious tale of steamy attraction, musical chairs and hot sex." (I am so there!) Also that night a short film will be played called *Forever Bottom*.

Closing the festival on Sunday is *Goldfish Memory* which Camera says "has something for everyone." It is the perfect way to close this year's event as it is a rare film that mixes gay, lesbian and straight storylines.

There are lots of ways to support SIGLFF—the easiest is just to show up for a night or purchase a festival pass and see all five nights. It's important that we show how much Sacramento loves having this wonderful festival each year.

If you've ever wanted to be a part of the planning committee or would like to volunteer for a night or two, believe me it's a lot of fun and well worth the time. You can contact the group through their website at www.siglff.org.

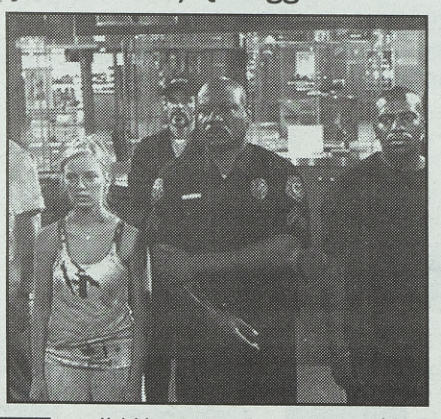
I asked Patti what she would say to someone who only wanted to attend one night of the festival. "I know many people like to just come to one night. But this Film Festival is the only place where you can see queer films with a queer audience. You don't have to worry about the audience snickering when two men or women kiss [on screen]. We are showing films that have received rave reviews at other queer films festivals and two of the best produced documentaries on gay marriage available—one of which is by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Debra Chasnoff. We have had filmmakers and actors at our festivals for the past two years and this year will be no exception.

"Our aim is to show films that will be of interest to all in our community. Men, as well as women, attend every night, no matter the orientation of the films. Our community is starving for good queer films and we are doing our very best to provide good and interesting films."

I couldn't have said it better myself. The film festival runs Oct. 6 - Oct. 10 at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K Street in downtown Sacramento.

The Dawn of The Dead

By Brian Judd/Q-Ragg



First, I'd like to apologize now to all afficionados of the horror film genre. I am not a fan of horror and have seen maybe two or three films that I actually thought were scary. To me, most are contrived and banal. So why did I review *The Dawn of The Dead* when I'm already prejudiced? Simply put, because the other half of *Swanner & Judd* is a 'fraidy cat. He doesn't like scary movies and asked me to do this review.

When this movie was in the theaters there was much ado about the fact that it was a remake, and as a remake this version did not make the same social statements about rampant consumerism that the original film did. Can anyone say *Stepford Wives*? I guess cinema had something to say back in the '70s and now it's just brain-numbing mind candy. Also when *The Dawn of The Dead* was released those that were not ranting about the lack of societal statement, thought the movie was pretty good.

The Dawn of The Dead opens with quick cuts between "scary" gore shots of the zombies ("it's the time for the season of looooviiiiing"—sorry I couldn't resist) and fictional news footage, while playing *The Man Comes Around* by Johnny Cash—a song about the Apocalypse.

After that the movie goes to Ana, the nurse (of course, what's a zombie movie without a medical professional to patch up wounds) complaining of being overworked and heading home for the day. Almost immediately the film starts with cheap thrills by playing the creepy accents and stingers at the most inane times. The worst came when the alarm clock changed minutes and there was an accompanying rumble for no apparent reason.

About 10 minutes into the movie the zombies start showing up. The first is a little girl that we had seen rollerskating five minutes earlier. Now, I suppose seeing a living-dead child could be scary...but then again, as we discovered with our *Man On Fire* review, I think real live children are pretty horrific on their own, so there was no freak factor there.

I should mention for those that have not seen a zombie film, or are only familiar with the stereotypical slow-moving, lurching zombies, that these zombies are fast and strong like the zombies from *28 Days Later* (I know...for someone who doesn't like zombie movies, I've seen plenty of them). After another 20 minutes Ana meets up with the rest of the movie's posse. The most familiar names being Ving Rhames, Mekhi Phifer, and Matt Frewer a.k.a. *Max Headroom*.

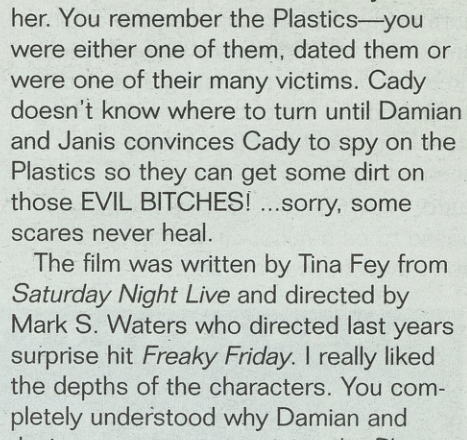
Of course we have our amalgam of formula characters. There's a father and teenage daughter and guess what? The father gets infected and they have to kill him. What a shock. We also have the pregnant newlyweds—I won't even go into what they do with them! We have the tough no nonsense cop. I won't tell you who played that part, as I don't want to spoil it for you—OK, it was Ving! Whodathunkit? We also have an asshole lawyer, a ditzy blonde, and some prick mall security guards—one of which has a heart of gold. I'm surprised they didn't have a mincing gay guy and a Chinese washerwoman to round things out, but apparently, that's just too stereotypical.

The movie continues with more "thrills" and plenty of gore for fans of that. I have to say th one thing I did like was the ending. For those that rent this movie, be sure to continue to watch the film through the end credits.

As much smack as I've talked about this film, I'm only going to give it two and a half bitchslaps. I am a self-proclaimed Zombophobe, while I didn't like this film, fans of this genre probably will. Remember, the only reason I reviewed this thing to begin with is because Tom Swanner is a big, quivering chicken!

Mean Girls

By Tom Swanner/Q-Ragg



It seems that every other movie that comes out these days is a teen movie where a group of pretty girls makes the lives of the "out crowd" miserable.

At first sight *Mean Girls* is just another movie with that same tired, old plot. But, upon closer inspection, this isn't the anorexic-actress teenage chick flick vehicle that it mirrors. There is some real meat here to this film, past the simplistic plot. The basic story is that Cady (played by Lindsay Lohan) moves from the jungles of Africa to the jungles of Suburbia, after spending the last 15 years living with her Zoologist parents.

Cady meets up with Damian and Janis, who are basically like the friends I hung out with in high school—far out of the popular circle. Cady is attractive and thin so the "Plastics" set their eyes on her. You remember the Plastics—you were either one of them, dated them or were one of their many victims. Cady doesn't know where to turn until Damian and Janis convinces Cady to spy on the Plastics so they can get some dirt on those EVIL BITCHES! ...sorry, some scares never heal.

The film was written by Tina Fey from *Saturday Night Live* and directed by Mark S. Waters who directed last years surprise hit *Freaky Friday*. I really liked the depths of the characters. You completely understood why Damian and Janis were so set on ruining the Plastics and how the Plastics get caught up in their own "press". I especially liked Lohan's character, who never having to deal with this kind of drama before, gets sucked into the whole popular thing. If you've been out of school for a few years it won't be long before moments in this film rip open those old wounds... much like Harry Potter's scar throbs and burns whenever his arch-nemesis Voldemort is close by.

You can tell that Tina Fey is still working through some scars of her own. There is some real stuff here, and not just screenwriter's plot points. I liked this movie a lot! This is the one that will separate itself from the crowd and be more than just another *Teen Beat* movie.

An interesting fact to note about the director—his brother Daniel Waters wrote the classic "those bitches will pay" movie *Heathers*. I really think our Q-munity will love this film because I think we've all been victims of these EVIL BITCHES! I give *Mean Girls* one bitchslap only because it opened up scars that I thought had healed long ago. All those years of therapy down the drain....

Capital City Hoopsters Co-ed Registration is Under Way

Courtesy Photo Website /CCH

CAPITAL CITY HOOPSTERS OPEN BASKETBALL PRACTICE WILL CONTINUE WITH THE NEW SEASON.

Registration for the co-ed season is open and you can receive $10 off your fee if you register and pay by Oct. 15. They expect to fill up quickly and will only fill to 5 teams (40 people) before they begin wait-listing. The Hoopsters already have over 20 people who definitely want to play ball for the upcoming co-ed season.

The season will begin in mid-November and run for approximately 13 weeks through early March, including preliminary scrimmages, regular season games and playoffs. Monday nights only. They will be taking time off during the holidays.

The reason the hoopsters are limiting registration to 5 teams is that they can only play two games every Monday at the Rizal Community Center, one at 7:30 and one at 8:30. So one team will have a bye every week.

In the event that they get a huge waitlist (24 people or enough for 3 more teams), they will attempt to find another facility and will split weekly Monday night play between the two facilities. But the likelihood of getting that many additional people interested and finding a second facility is a long shot according to Marc Jacobson. So if you definitely plan to play, you better sign up NOW.

You can go to the website to download the registration form, www.sacramentohoops.com.

All Women's League Will Start New Season

The first season for the all-women's LGBT basketball league has come to an end, but never fear, another season is here! There has been much anticipation and eagerness in having another all-women's basketball season get started, so here is the information in order to have 6 teams once again for a new season!

PLACE: NORTH HIGHLANDS PARK & REC DISTRICT, 6040 WATT AVENUE. PROPOSED SCHEDULE: STARTING MID OR END OF OCTOBER, WEDNESDAY NIGHTS (7, 8 & 9PM) LENGTH OF SEASON: 9 WEEKS (1 SCRIMMAGE, 6 WEEKS OF REGULAR SEASON, AND 2 WEEKS OF PLAYOFFS)

Proposed Teams: 6 teams, 7-8 people per team, at about $37.00 player league fee Please note that we will not be having Sponsors or Team Jersey Uniforms. Instead, we will keep the same Team Names for this season, which will be: *Club 21, The Depot, Jammin' Jo, Magale Chiro, Outword* and *Whisler Land Company.* Once teams are created, they will either decide on purchasing generic jerseys, or using the current jerseys. North Highlands Park & Rec is very excited to bring us on board and welcoming our Women's Basketball League. They will also be providing referee's, scorekeepers, and awards at the end of the season!

If anyone is interested in signing up, please email Irma ASAP at: Irms24@aol.com for more information, or please feel free to view our website at: www.sacramento-hoops.com.

Summer Bowling League Ends Season

As the summer league of the River City Bowlers has been completed, the season was capped off with a backyard banquet hosted by league Vice President, Danny Amaro. Danny was kind enough to offer his pool side venue as well as his time in organizing the event. Along with the BBQ and drinks, the event offered a lovely yard, soothing music and the pool of course. The night turned out to be a complete success for the host and the officers and members of the bowling league. At the conclusion of the night, awards were presented to individuals and teams for the efforts over the summer session. Danny also offered up several raffle prizes for the group. President David Brownstein commented, "how great the night went for everyone and how well organized the event was for the more than 30+ in attendance."

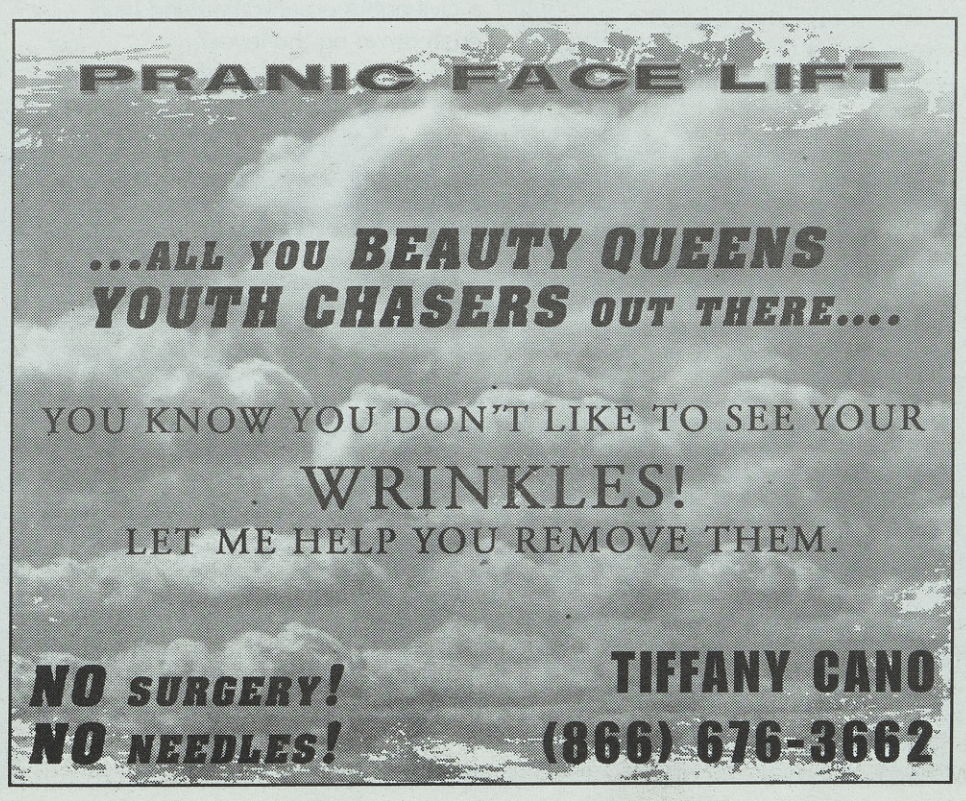
If you are interested in becoming a part of this fun group, the winter session runs from mid September until mid May of 2005.

ALTHOUGH THE LEAGUE HAS ALREADY BEGUN, THERE MAY STILL BE OPENINGS FOR INDIVIDUAL BOWLERS. CONTACT LEAGUE SECRETARY/TREASURER TOM LANE AT 635-1535 OR TOMMY5647@AOL.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.

WWW.Q-RAGG.COM/BLOG

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? THE ELECTION? THE HRC? GAY MARRIAGE? THE PRICE OF GAS? THE NEW WILL & GRACE? THE EXPANSION OF FACES? THE RAINBOW FESTIVAL? WHY WAS *MARGARET CHO FIRED?* WHATEVER THE QUESTIONS—WHATEVER YOUR ANSWERS—YOUR VOICE WILL BE HEARD. VISIT THE Q-BLOG TODAY AND LET LAVENDER HEIGHTS KNOW HOW YOU FEEL!

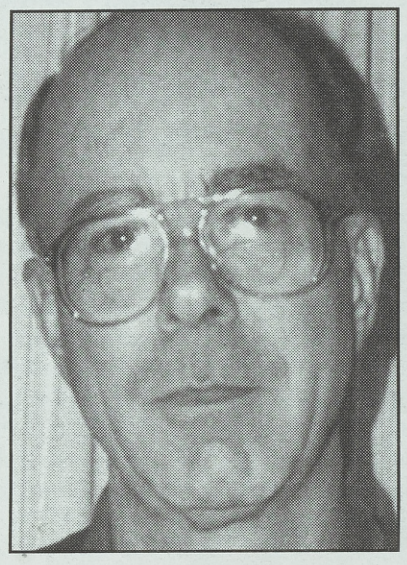
SACRAMENTO'S GLBT COMMUNITY VOICE



Changing the World

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist, Lambda Letters Project

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS ARTICLE, THE STATE LEGISLATURE WILL HAVE CLOSED FOR THE YEAR. AUGUST 27 WAS THE LAST DAY OF THE STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION.



At this point it appears that we will have gotten some good bills passed and signed by the Governor in 2004. However, nothing really spectacular has occurred this year as compared to some past years. In particular, the bill to allow same sex couples obtain marriage licenses went down in flames in the legislature.

It is in years like this that I hear comments like "What's the use of trying. The world will never change."

Please allow me to respond to those thoughts. First of all, it depends on what you mean by "world." Several years ago, I met a pre-operative transsexual who had a very professional high paying job as the Comptroller of a mid sized corporation. She planned to begin her transition soon and said she was certain to lose her job as soon as that happened. Last year AB 196 became law in California. It bans discrimination against transsexuals and transgender people. As soon as that bill became effective a lawyer friend of mine began her transition. She announced her plans to her employer and she is doing just fine. Their "world" has certainly changed. The work we at Lambda Letters do changes worlds for the better every year!

I HAVE BEEN LOBBYING ON *LGBTI* CIVIL RIGHTS FOR OVER 30 YEARS. WHEN I STARTED, GAY SEX WAS ILLEGAL. YOU COULD GO TO JAIL FOR IT. EMPLOYERS WERE ALLOWED TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST LESBIANS, GAYS, BISEXUALS, AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE. Employers most certainly did not provide health insurance to the domestic partners of their employees. If a gay or lesbian person died without a will, his or her domestic partner could lose the home and assets that they shared. The blood relatives of the deceased could, and frequently did, take it all away from the surviving partner. Now, thirty years later everyone of those things has changed for the better. Some say it isn't worth the effort if it is going to take that long. But we need to keep things in perspective. Thirty years seems like a long time in the human life span. But an Amoeba lives, at most 2 or 3 days. To it, 3 hours in an unreasonably long time. A Redwood tree can live 2,000 years. To it 30 years is just an instant. We shouldn't judge the value of a goal merely on how long it takes to accomplish and we should understand that, in the big picture, change for the better is actually occurring rather quickly. When people give up trying, or refuse to help in the cause, it hurts all of us. Let me illustrate that point with an analogy. The Greek mathematician Pythagoras once said, "If I had a long enough lever, I could lift the whole world." A lever is like a see saw. You put a weight, like a child, on one end and then push down on the other end to raise the child. The longer the lever or see saw, the easier it is to raise the child, even a very heavy one. On the other hand you could raise even a very heavy child with a short see saw if enough people pushed down on the other end.

Civil rights advocacy is like that. Those who advocate for civil rights and civil justice usually have little money and little else concrete to promote their cause. They are in effect trying to lift the world with a very short lever. They have to push long and hard to make any progress. But the more people that help them push down on the lever the more effective they become.

How about it? Are you willing to join a civil rights organization and help push down on the lever?

BHINMAN@Q-RAGG.COM

EQUALITY CALIFORNIA PAC ANNOUNCES 2004 LEGISLATIVE ENDORSEMENTS

NO CANDIDATE WHO OPPOSES MARRIAGE EQUALITY ENDORSED

Equality California's Political Action Committee (EQCA PAC) today announced the results of its candidate endorsement process for the 2004 general election. In order to participate, candidates were required to complete a comprehensive questionnaire on issues of concern to California's LGBT residents. In addition, candidates were interviewed by EQCA PAC members prior to being considered for endorsement. The candidate questionnaire responses are available on www.eqca.org in the Election Center. In the coming weeks, EQCA PAC is hoping to receive newly completed candidate questionnaires and may endorse in additional races prior to the November 2 general election.

"Each of these candidates earned the endorsement of EQCA PAC based on his or her commitment to support legislation to advance our one goal of true equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Californians," stated Geoffrey Kors, Executive Director of Equality California. "We commend them for their leadership in bringing people together and rejecting the far right wing's divisive brand of politics that attempts to pit one group against another." Kors added, "Most of our endorsed candidates support EQCA-sponsored legislation by Assemblymember Mark Leno to end marriage discrimination, and none of the endorsed candidates oppose it. This is in stark contrast to many of their opponents who have signed a pledge to oppose any rights for same-sex couples. The result of these races will likely determine whether California will continue moving towards complete equality or instead takes a step backwards." Leading the EQCA PAC's endorsement process was PAC Chair Attorney Steve Collier of San Francisco and PAC Vice Chair Brian O'Leary Bennett of Long Beach.

THE 2004 CANDIDATES ENDORSED BY EQCA PAC AS OF SEPTEMBER ARE AS FOLLOWS:

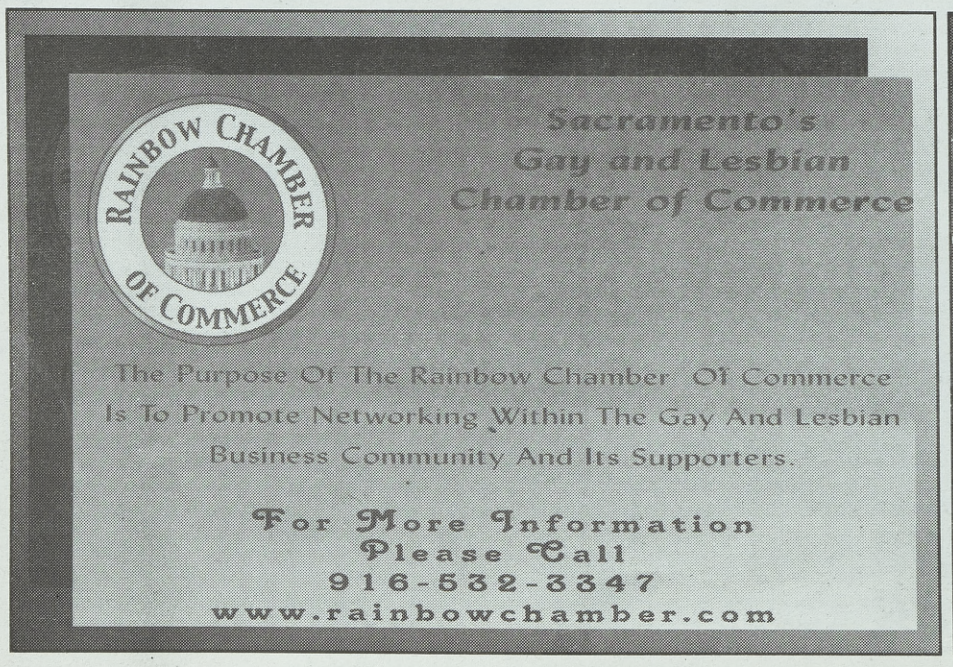
STATE SENATE:

SD 2- CAROLE MIGDEN
SD 9- SENATOR DON PERATA
SD 11- ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOE SIMITIAN
SD 13- ELAINE ALQUIST
SD 23- SENATOR SHEILA KUEHL
SD 27- ASSEMBLYMEMBER ALAN LOWENTHAL
SD 39- ASSEMBLYMEMBER CHRISTINE KEHOE

STATE ASSEMBLY:

AD 1- ASSEMBLYMEMBER PATTY BERG
AD 6- ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOE NATION
AD 7- NOREEN EVANS
AD 9- DAVE JONES
AD 13- ASSEMBLYMEMBER MARK LENO
AD 14- ASSEMBLYMEMBER LONI HANCOCK
AD 16- ASSEMBLYMEMBER WILMA CHAN
AD 18- JOHAN KLEHS
AD 20- ALBERT TORRICO
AD 21- IRA RUSKIN
AD 22- ASSEMBLYMEMBER SALLY LIEBER
AD 27- ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOHN LAIRD
AD 39- ASSEMBLYMEMBER CINDY MONTANEZ
AD 35- PEDRO NAVA
AD 40- ASSEMBLYMEMBER LLOYD LEVINE
AD 42- ASSEMBLYMEMBER PAUL KORETZ
AD 45- ASSEMBLYMEMBER JACKIE GOLDBERG
AD 47- KAREN BASS
AD 48- ASSEMBLYMEMBER MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AD 49- ASSEMBLYMEMBER JUDY CHU
AD 50- HECTOR DE LA TORRE
AD 53- MIKE GORDON
AD 54- SENATOR BETTY KARNETTE
AD 55- ASSEMBLYMEMBER JENNY OROPEZA
AD 58- ASSEMBLYMEMBER RON CALDERON
AD 76- LORI SALDANA
AD 78- PATTY DAVIS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.EQCA.ORG.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a Web site that benefits the LGBTQI community

The Republican Masquerade

By Daniel Roth President, Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

Even though Halloween is more than a month away, President Bush has been busy putting his costume together. The last time he dressed up was four years ago when he was running for President promising he would be "a uniter, not a divider." Millions of gays and lesbians believed him.

In 2000 in the pivotal state of Florida, with 25 electoral votes, exit polling showed that over 44,000 gay and lesbian voters supported Bush, giving him the state—which he won by just 537 votes—and the White House.

Unfortunately as soon as the election was over, Bush took his mask off and revealed that neither he nor the Republicans had any intention of bringing Americans together. Instead, they decided the best way to guarantee another win in 2004 was to persecute gay and lesbian Americans—the very Americans who had supported him. The Republicans in Congress pushed and the President supported a Constitutional Amendment banning gay marriage. In a visit with the Pope, Bush pleaded with him to pressure Catholic Bishops to be more active in his persecution of gays and lesbians. The Republicans in the House of Representatives passed a measure stripping courts of their ability to hear civil rights cases for gay and lesbian Americans. The Republicans used their four years controlling both the Congress and the Presidency not to unite, but rather to persecute gay and lesbian families.

And now it is time for the President to run for president again. He is in a quandary: he must appeal to middle of the road voters while tossing a bone to his Republican base. So he is brushing off his mask that he wore four years ago when he bamboozled gay and lesbian voters into voting for him and attempting to pass himself off as—get this—a moderate.

In his acceptance speech Bush used his tired line from 2000 that he is "for President with a clear and positive plan to build a safer world, and a more hopeful America." Just like four years ago he cast himself as "a compassionate conservative" who believes "government should help people improve their lives, not try to run their lives."

Whatever.

You cannot claim that you oppose government regulation, and then use your Presidency to regulate who can or cannot get married.

The Constitutional amendment to ban marriage equality does not help anyone. It only hurts gay and lesbian Americans who are working full time, paying taxes and sending their kids to college by forever inscribing in our country's most sacred document that we are second-class citizens.

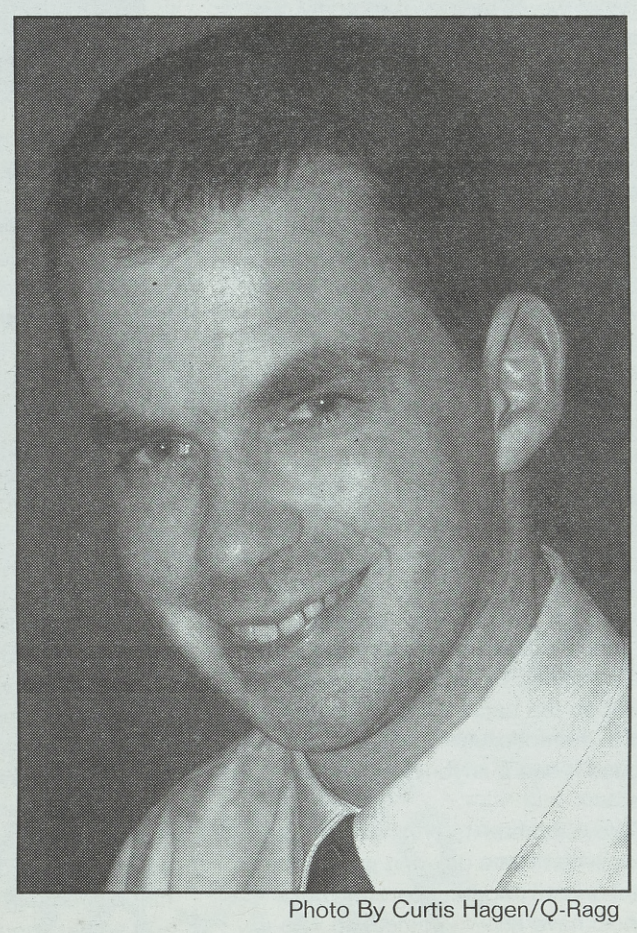


Photo By Curtis Hagen/Q-Ragg

So during his acceptance speech when the President wanted to bring the delegates to their feet, Bush knew that a little homophobia would do the trick. With a smirk on his face, the "great uniter" uttered, "Because the union of a man and woman deserves an honored place in our society, I support the protection of marriage against activist judges."

The crowd rose to their feet, and the President received his loudest applause of the night. After all, the Republican delegates had just voted unanimously for their party's official platform that said, "We strongly support President Bush's call for a Constitutional amendment that fully protects marriage, and we believe that neither federal nor state judges nor bureaucrats should force states to recognize other living arrangements as equivalent to marriage."

In November you will have a choice. President Bush and the Republican Party believe that if you are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, you should pay the same taxes and work just as hard as everyone else, but when it comes to civil rights, we are second-class citizens. They do not believe that same-sex couples should be able to visit their partners in the hospital, make medical decisions for them, be able to file a joint tax return, or even get a family discount at a national park.

As the President once again hits the campaign trail, he will put on his mask again with promises of uniting America. And although it may be a pretty mask, it is nothing but a lie. Gay and lesbian Americans handed Bush the Presidency four years ago. We have seen the real face behind the mask, so on November 2, we need to turn out to turn out and vote to send Bush and his mask back to Texas.

Email Dan at: droth@q-ragg.com

THIS IS WAR!

By Sam Catalano

If there was ever a declaration of war against gays and lesbians and their families, it was declared over and over again at the Republican convention. In addition to it being a lie-fest and so filled with hypocrisy that I could puke, I have never heard such hatred against us in a convention in my lifetime.

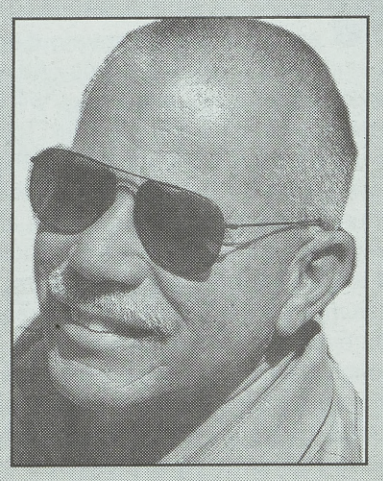
What one item in Emperor Bush's acceptance speech got the loudest cheer from the bigots in the convention hall? If you missed it, I'll tell you – it was when Chicken Hawk Bush was attacking gays and lesbians and their assault on the "holy and sacred" institution of marriage!

As a history major, I thought I had been transported back to 1936 Germany and was attending a Nazi rally and listening to Hitler attack the Jews. This is WAR!!! The Republican platform not only opposes same sex marriage but civil unions (and I would argue even domestic partner benefits). They hate us. (No wonder lesbian Mary Cheney was afraid to go on stage after her father spoke).

If there was ever any doubt about the importance of this election, the Republican convention was all the proof anyone (and that includes you Log Cabin folks) needs that we must defeat Homo-hater Bush! Just think what more he could do (and the lifetime judges he will appoint) to halt and even set back the progress we have made. Imagine a Congress with more homo-hating Tom Delays and Rick Santorims.

Folks, you need to be afraid. Honestly and sincerely—you need to be afraid.

And you need to fight back. That means sending money to Move On and the Democratic Party. That means working at the Coordinated Campaign office at 1017 J Street. That means putting up signs and bumper stickers. That means making phone calls and making sure your friends and families and co-workers are registered and actually vote. If you aren't angry now, get angry and fight back! THIS IS WAR!



Email Sam: scatalano@q-ragg.com

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When You're Out

By M.A. Ross/Q-Ragg

LIFE FOR TEENAGERS IS TOUGH, BUT BEING GAY ON TOP OF IT ALL DOESN'T HELP MATTERS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS LIKE WHEN YOU WERE GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL, BUT AS A GAY TEEN BACK IN THE LATE 70'S TO THE MID 80'S IT WAS A LIVING HELL FOR ME.

I don't know what was worse, the fear of taunting by classmates, the feelings of not belonging, or the unrequited crushes I had on the more handsome of my male classmates—feelings I could do nothing about for fear of being rejected, exposed for being different, or pummeled to death. Sex education was of little help except in biology where I finally learned about what was making me crazy (testosterone strikes again!), but not one clue as to why I was having cravings for boys instead of girls.

I don't think the word homosexual was even in the sex education curriculum. Talking to my friends didn't help matters. Most of the guys talked about what girls they liked, or they didn't mention girls at all. My friends who were girls talked about the boys they liked, but I was too afraid to talk about what boys I liked. That kind of talk about boys liking boys just brought up stigmatizing words like "fag" and "queer".

My awkward social problems didn't end at school. All those fear and worries affected my life outside school too. Having no one to talk to about these problems just made things even more difficult for me. None of my friends, parents or family members talked about homosexual relations, except negatively.

The fear of being out-ed dogged me through most of my teenage life. If my they knew, which of my friends would abandon me or who else would they tell? What kind of exploits could they perpetrate with this secret source of shameful information? What would happen if my parental units found out? Would they ship me off to some backwoods Baptist bible camp to "straighten me out" or would they just send me away? What kind of life would I have living on the street if I did get sent away and all my friends had forsaken me? I even thought of what would happen if took my own life. I know now that those fears were unfounded, but at the time they seemed all too real.

There were little embers of hope and knowledge to help me, but they were too far and few between. The public library was a good start, if even just for looking up the definition of the word 'homosexual' in the it's-so-big-it-gets-it's-own-pedestal copy of *The Oxford Unabridged Dictionary*, or the spitefully heterosexual-filtered information on gays found in the book *Everything You Wanted To Know About Sex...But Were Afraid To Ask*. There was very little literature at the library and it was difficult to find. I was too afraid to ask the librarian, so I'd either follow one source of queer information to the next, or just keep my eyes open and stumble across it.
I found a paperback copy of *The Boys in the Band* and casually reading the synopsis on the back. When I got to the word "homosexual" I instinctively looked around it see if anyone was watching me.

Television had its brushes with gayness when I was growing up, too. Even from an early age my parental units should have known something was up. One of my favorite shows was *Bewitched* and one of my favorite characters on the show was "Uncle Arthur" played by the fabulously fey and wickedly witted Paul Lynn. It felt like I just had a natural bond with the way Paul conducted himself. His razor sharp wit and wry sense of humor were genuinely funny to me and he made me feel at ease. Then there were talk shows like Donahue that had episodes that dealt with gays, transsexuals, cross dressers, and whatever else would spike the ratings meters. I

Photo by Curtis Hagen

recall all the hoopla about Billy Crystal's reoccurring gay character in the "had-to-be-shown-after-prime-time" program *Soap*. There was even a sitcom on the Showtime cable network called *Brothers* that not only had major gay characters who kissed; but they talked about AIDS, gay bashing, and coming out of the closet as well. Cable television was also the first place I got to see my first gay movie as well; the heartfelt epic *Torch Song Trilogy*. This also happened to be the first movie to make me really cry as an agonizingly cynical teenager. Mind you now, except for *Bewitched*, I had to watch most of those shows with one finger on the remote control for fear of being caught. But, just knowing that I was not alone with these feelings was a tremendous weight off my mind.

Life for gay teens has come a long way since I was in high school. But things are still far from ideal. Not everyone's friends, parents, schools or teachers are so open-minded. There are still people that disparage homosexuality as a phase and something to triumph over. Gay teens hear that they can "overcome their sickness" if they really want to or with the help of some so-called higher power. I think talk like this just gives them false hope and is really just setting them up for failure and depression. The numbers of gay teens that commit suicide are still incredibly high. There are still ignorant puddin' heads that get media coverage like Jerry Falwell who says gays must accept some blame for what happened on 9/11 or Fred Phelps and his asinine site godhatesfags.com.

Gay teens also account for substantial amounts of runaways because the prejudice of others has made it too unbearable to stay at home or their homophobic parents simply had them thrown out. Lots of gay teens still drop out of school because of harassment by intolerant students and/or faculty.

These days' gay teens (thanks in large part to the internet) have more information about homosexuality at their fingertips then ever before. They can see themselves represented in book & magazines, television or the movies in a positive manner and in every spectrum of life. In a few schools there are Gay Straight Alliances (GSA's), which are after-school clubs where gay teens and their straight friends can just hang out and talk together in a safe and non-threatening environment. Some brave teachers have even gone so far as to put up signs indicating gay safety zones if a gay teen is feeling threatened or just needs someone to talk to about there problems. In big city school districts like San Francisco or Los Angeles—and even in Sacramento—there are gay proms. Gay teens are also learning that they don't have to put up with harassment from bullies or bigoted teachers when they are in school just trying to learn. (Try google-ing the names: Jamie Nabozny or Timothy Dahle sometime!)

There isn't much we as gay adults can do directly for gay teenagers that are not of our own flesh and blood. (Not unless you want to be accused of being a pervert.) What we can do is show them that gays don't have to live in fear and put up with the hatred and intolerance of others. That they, too, have just as much right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as any heterosexual. We can set good examples for them by showing that we can have long-term and meaningful relationships. We can show them that not all gays are like what little they see of Pride Parades on the news or as hedonistic as the characters on *Queer As Folk* can get. We could not let our queer history be expunged, forgotten or vilified. I think the most important thing we can do for gay teens is to let them know that they are not alone.

MROSS@Q-RAGG.COM

When You're In

By Shira Davida Goldberg

With the flurry of activity that coincides with the Halloween experience many will venture out in costume revealing another side of them. Concealed in masks, many of us will be attending one party after another. This is everyone's opportunity to obscure their true identities by fashioning a disguise. It's fun to explore underlying facets of our identity, during the months committed to ghoulish ghosts and goblins. Costumes usually represent a characteristic, embedded within. Conjuring up, through planning, preparation and imagination, an aspect of us that we catapult into the spotlight. Halloween is a great time to see how a butch looks as a femme, or how a gay boy looks as a Navy officer; our identities are revealed. This is when we have the freedom and choice to be whomever we choose, whether it is a dominatrix or a G.I. Jane.

For many of us, such concealment is not just one day during the month of October. It is the other 364 days of the year that we all wear some type of outer camouflage—something that prevents others access. It is these times that our masquerade serves as a defense mechanism almost like a football player's pads. Feeling comfortable in who we are and showing the world our true identity is a daunting and often impossible task. Concealing our true selves is sometimes essential to shield us from harm, protect our jobs, or just to feel comfortable. We, as GLBT community members are often on constant alert to keep ourselves from revealing too much.

We cannot deny that our society, with all of its advances in social advocacy has a long way to go as our freedoms are not even available to us as Americans. We are denied basic human rights, and identified exclusively not by our personalities or ambitions but by our sexuality. A recent example is the media frenzy surrounding New Jersey Governor James McGreevey who was "outed" intentionally and with malice. His efforts or dedication to civil service were not mentioned, just his character. I have seen on the tabloid stands numerous stories that draw readership from such exposure, using accusatory sensationalism as an often very effective tool. Such angles only undermine us, not us gays and lesbians, but as people, leaving everyone's progress stifled.

America's cultural idealism does not include homosexuals. We are often targets, defamed at the slightest pretext. No wonder so many in our community insist on staying in the closet—the drive to fit into the community-at-large that has people imposing their definition of morality is sometimes just easier.

We've had to face insurmountable odds, such as prefrontal lobotomies, as well as shock therapy to "cure" our homosexual tendencies. It is surprising that anyone of us ever feels strong enough to be able to be our true selves. Hiding our sexual tendencies theoretically makes sense. In New York City during the 1930's, vigilante groups organized campaigns against homosexuals. We have been depicted as monsters.

We are such common targets, it can be exasperating as our country continues to single us out, leaving unwarranted and untrue impressions of what they think about us; constructing their own fabricated narrative, resembling very little of who we are. For some of us, our response is to protect ourselves by living a masquerade.

If we are homosexual, and have the audacity to express opinions about civil liberties, equal protection or even affection in public we are shunned and told to retreat under a veil of shame. Despite grand gestures and continued labors to incorporate fairness and due process, we continue in this battle.

For those that are able to be who they are in every area of their lives shows enormous courage, however each of us is different. The unspoken LGBT creed is not to "out" each other. We each need to come to realizations in our own time and that is a very personal decision that needs to be respected. We are not as powerless as it feels; the world is not only every changing, but also ever shrinking. We are networking from friend to friend, stranger to stranger unlike ever before, with global resources available at our computer savvy fingertips. We have practical support more than ever before, but we still live in an unaccepting social order. The attitudes of the American mainstream stifle expression, instead of fostering individuality.

How much easier it would be, living on the Island of Gays and Lesbos (sigh). We will continue working for our cause, in our optimistic and relentless attitudes, as we always have. Our network may be farther-reaching than we realize allowing us to cultivate, nurture and help each other in the process. Minor changes of yesterday, today and tomorrow can and will be taken up and become traditional cultural norms, despite Bush's best attempts to stop us. We are here constructing our own destiny, ignoring the tightly held belief that we are wrong.

Remember America's capacity for critical thought, cultural relativism and dominant theme of egalitarianism. It is a slow process, but eventually, no, inevitably we get it right. Sounds crazy, I know, but just remember we are living in a Christian based country celebrating in grand style a holiday based in pagan tradition. Anything is possible.

Dear Mother, I have been friends with a guy for the last 5 years. He is muscular and handsome and I am very overweight and always have been. The other night while we were out with friends, one of them let it slip that my guy-friend calls me "Piggy-Pete" to other people. I never thought he was the type to act like that, and we have been fairly close friends. I'm hurt, I want to call him on it. What should I do? Signed, Piggy Pete

Honey we need to talk. What kind of people are you hanging out with? First and foremost if they don't respect you they aren't your friends. It is one thing to call each other pet names playing around but quite another behind one's back. It also sounds like this man is someone you're infatuated with, and I don't think this feeling is mutual. If you truly think this man is your friend, talk to him privately about it and I advise you not to involve these other friends that you both know. If he is truly your friend he will apologize and refrain from this hurtful and juvenile behavior. If not, not involving the other friends will at least spare you embarrassment and more hurtful backbiting. Now that we have covered that, honey if you know you're very overweight, you must realize that it's not healthy. Mother is worried about you and I encourage you to find some help through a group or your doctor to help you get the weight loss you need. *Love Mother*

Dear Mother, I have a friend who is HIV positive and is always telling me about his unsafe sexual exploits. I ask him if he tells people he is positive and he says "Hell no." So I asked do you tell them if they ask you? He said "Nope, if they want to have safe sex it's their responsibility to say so, and they never do." I am horrified by this and stumped as to what I should do. In my mind this is criminal. Any advice? Signed, Horrified

Your friend is part of the ongoing problem with AIDS. I am disgusted with your friend's behavior. The fact that he would freely risk another life for a few minutes of pleasure, with no remorse, makes me want to throw up. My question for you is, how can you be friends with this walking dickhead? I would ask him how he feels about murdering other men. I realize that this is a loaded comment, but short of kicking his ass, I don't know what else will give him the wake up call that he needs. Then you might point out to him that condoms are available free from most AIDS organizations and family planning offices. I hope you get through to him. *Love Mother*

Dear Mother, I've been dating a wonderful man. He's perfect in almost every way, and we are moving in together next month. He is a bit old fashioned, which I like. However, I just found out that part of that old-fashioned behavior is a dislike for porn. I like porn A LOT. A few days ago he saw the collection I'd built up over the last few years and said he wanted me to get rid of it if we were going to be living together. I don't want to and don't feel I should have to. Some motherly advice, please? Signed, Porn Yesterday

Oh, hell, no honey! He can't be trying to change you already! He hasn't even moved in yet. You mean to say that in all the time you been dating, your porn collection has never come out? Well, regardless of weather or not he knew about your enjoyment of porn, he should respect you enough to allow you to keep what's yours. With that said, maybe you should consider that it may not be that he is old fashioned, but that he feels that he is enough for you and doesn't want to compete with porn stars for your affections. The bottom line is you two need to sit down like adults and hash it out—before he moves in—so that both your rights and feeling are not trampled on. *Love Mother*

Dear Mother, I screwed up big time. I had sex with my best girlfriend's husband. We've all been friends since high school and they have been married for the past 5 years. I'm still not sure what happened, one minute I was enjoying their anniversary party, the next I was on my knees, servicing him in their work shed. I swore to him I wouldn't tell, and don't want to betray his trust as he is a friend. But she's my best friend and means more to me than a promise made with my mouth full. Should I tell her? Signed, Adultering Best friend

Sweetie, you're right, you screwed up big time, but this was a crime you are not alone in committing. Although I am perplexed as to how you could end up on your knees servicing this guy without knowing how it happened. But, the fact is that it did and even though it may not be "PC", I say keep your trap shut if you want to keep your friend. Nothing will break up a friendship, or a marriage like sex play with your friend's husband. I suppose on some level you both wanted it—although men are pigs and will usually take oral satisfaction from whomever is willing as long as they think no one will find out. I suggest you avoid the walking penis—I mean, her husband—and focus on making your friendship stronger with your friend. *Love Mother*

Dear Mother, I am 53 and am being pursued by a 19 year old. He's cute, fun, and we do connect on some, but not all levels. I don't think he is looking for a sugar daddy because he has a good job. But I don't know if I want to be perceived as "daddy", which I am sure everyone will automatically assume is the case. I want to see what happens, but don't want to be known as the daddy-troll in my social circle. Any advice for me? Signed, Potential Troll

Honey, if you're 53 and you hooked a 19 year old, I say get it while you can, Baby. The differences you have will indeed, most likely end your relationship at some point, but right now, who cares? Enjoy today, together. And as far as those who would name call, they just wish they were you, 'cause you're gettin' some from a hot, young man. Let them say what they will. It makes no difference in the grand scheme of things. *Love Mother*

Dear Mother, My lover and I got married in San Francisco last spring. When we did, it was the end of our open relationship. We agreed that being legally married was a commitment and we stopped playing around. Now that the court has nullified all the licenses, my partner wants to begin playing again, but I still feel the same commitment about or relationship as I did after getting married. It doesn't matter to me if I have a piece of legally recognized paper or not. How to I show him we don't need to have sex with others to be happy? Signed, Unstably Married

My Dear, you need to have a serious discussion with your partner. I may be old-fashioned, but I believe when you are truly in love with someone you don't need others to fulfill your needs. I am in full agreement with you that a piece of paper means nothing as far as the commitment you feel. Who cares what the courts say. Our relationships have more strength and understanding than they can ever comprehend. If we are going to legally bond to each other, let's call it something more special than "marriage"—leave that for the straights. You need to find out if your partner is really as committed as you to your relationship. He may feel something is missing you are not aware of. Talk to each other! *Love Mother*

Dear Mother, My sister just came out. She's 15 and I am 16 and we still live at home with my parents and our two older brothers. None of the others support her and our brothers are always calling her a dyke now and making rude jokes about her friends when they come over. Our parents turn their back. I want to support her in her life as a lesbian. Can you tell me how I can help her? Signed, Love My Sister

I commend you for loving unconditionally. Your support is exactly what your sister needs. I suggest that your sister try Breaking Barriers/Lambda Youth Group. She can reach them at youthgroup@lambdasac.org. This is a good resource for young gay people to meet, network and discuss their issues with other young gay people. This will also be a great resource for you in your support for your sister. You can always call on Mother if you need me. I'll adopt you. *Love Mother*

EMAIL MOM AT: TALKTOMOTHER@Q-RAGG.COM

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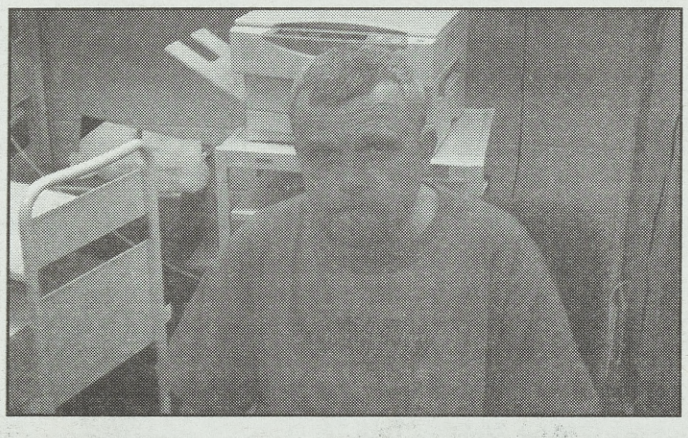
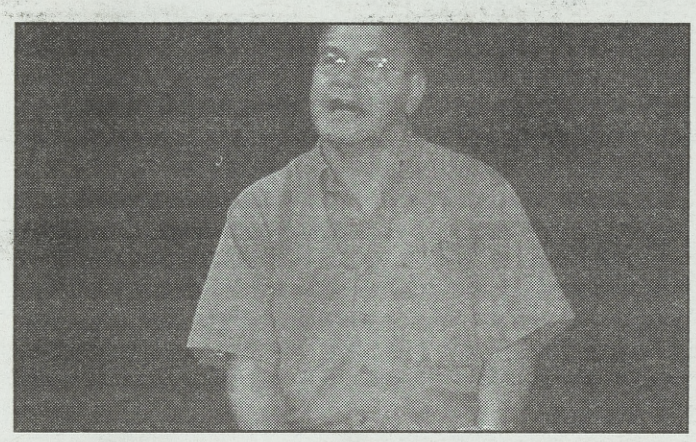
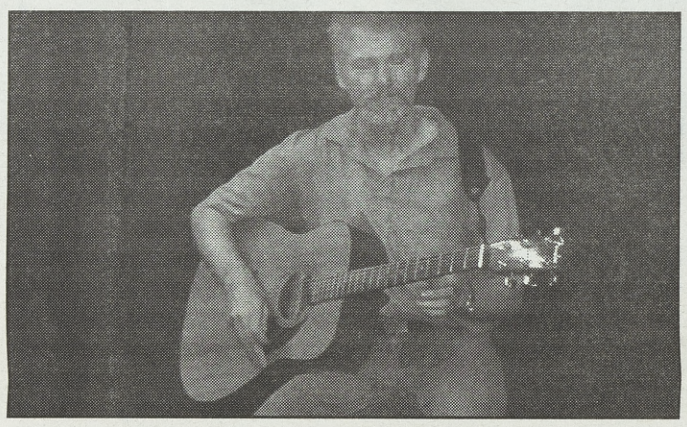
LLACE's Open Mic Night



LLACE HELD A SPECIAL OPEN MIC NIGHT ON SEPT. 18. SPECIAL GUEST HOST COUNTRY SINGER MARK WEIGLE WAS MIA AS OF START TIME, SO BOARD PRESIDENT MICHAEL COLBY TOOK OVER THE MIC AND PERFORMED A NUMBER OF SONGS, INCLUDING HIS BETTER KNOWN SONG, "STRAIGHT BOY." HE WAS JOINED BY LOCAL ACTOR ARNOLD ARLON CARLSON READING SEVERAL PERSONAL POEMS.





RAINBOWS

Anywhere you go
Everywhere you see
People everywhere
Young and old alike
In all walks of life.

Through the streets
And through the parks
People celebrating
For their freedom and their pride
By waving their colors of Rainbows.

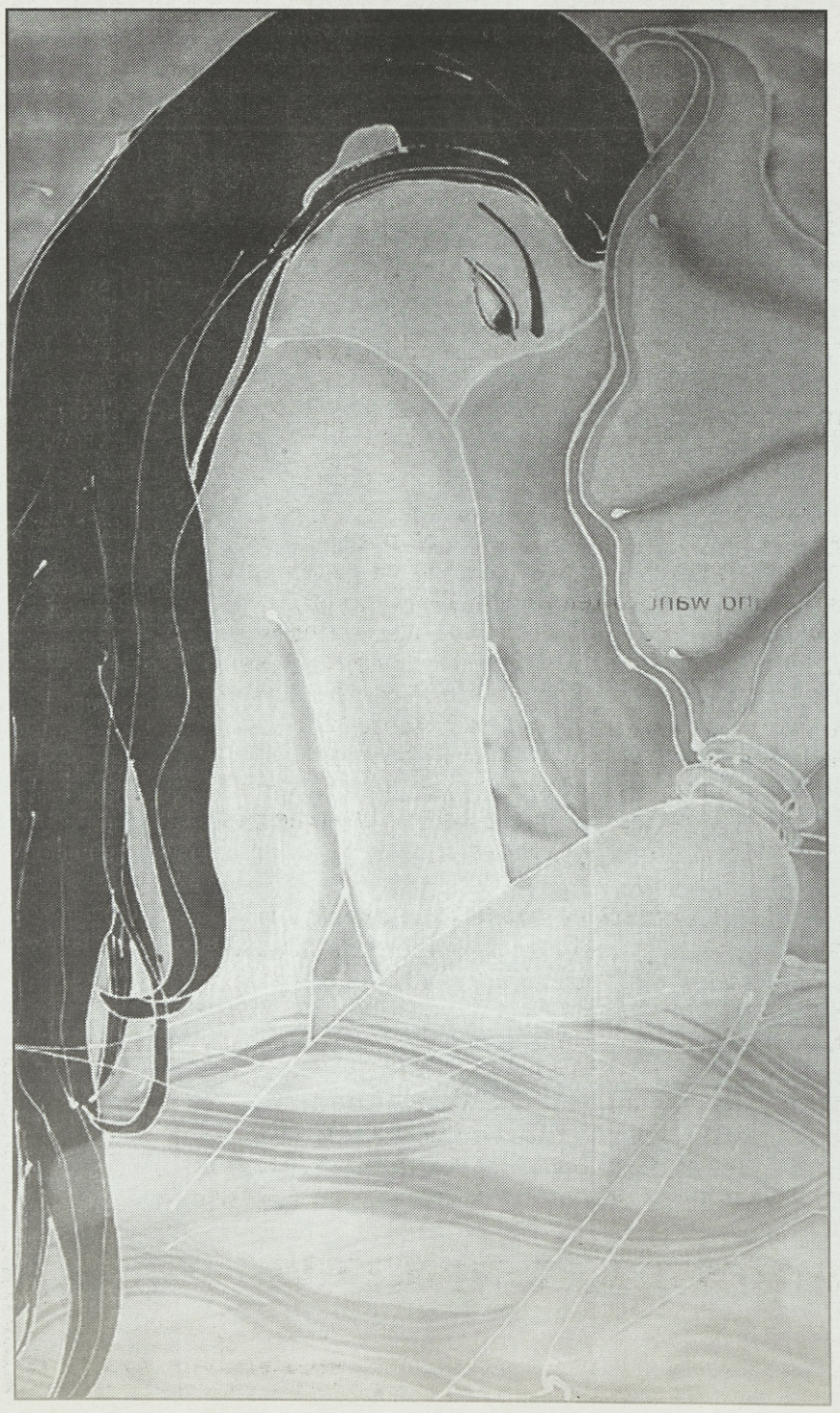
The Rainbows waves in the air of six colors
Each color represent their own meaning
Red for life
Orange for healing
Yellow for sun
Green for nature
Blue for harmony
Violet for spirit.

We celebrate our life with prosperity
While our life heals on its own.
Everyday we praise the sun
As nature grows in our hearts.
While we live in peace and harmony
We can rejoice the spirit in all of us.
These are the colors of our Rainbows.

The colors celebrates our rights
For freedom and pride.
United we stand side by side
To be proud of who we are.

—ARNOLD ARLON CARLSON

WWW.LAVENDERLIBRARY.ORG



THE ART OF HAIR STUDIO JOINS
THE SECOND SATURDAY ART WALK
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2004, FROM 6-8PM

PRESENTING
CERAMICS, BRONZES AND BATIKS BY S.F. WHETSTONE
FREE-FORM MOSAICS ON CANVAS BY TRACY BOWLING
AND
CUSTOM STERLING SILVER AND COPPER JEWELRY
BY JUNE VARGAS/ECLECTIC ALCHEMY
2401 J STREET (AT THE BACK OF THE KINECTIONS BUILDING)
CALL 441-5552 FOR INFORMATION

Clay's Way is a novel that strives

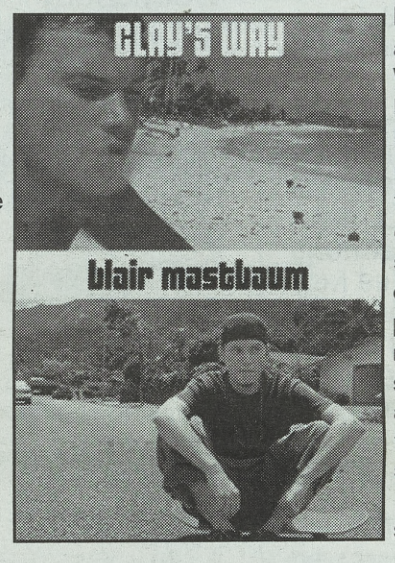
By Jennifer Thornton/Q-Ragg

PUNK/NOUN & ADJECTIVE — PUNK ROCK; THE SUBCULTURE OR STYLE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS. ALSO, A PUNK ROCKER; A PERSON WHO ADOPTS OR TYPIFIES A PUNK STYLE.

Crucial when nothing else was, Punk was an idea—a balls out aesthetic that raged on society's fringes before moving to America's malls and backyards where it became a haven for alienated teenagers struggling to survive in the suburban wastelands of America.

Its 12:38 P.M. and now I'm sixteen, which means nothing.

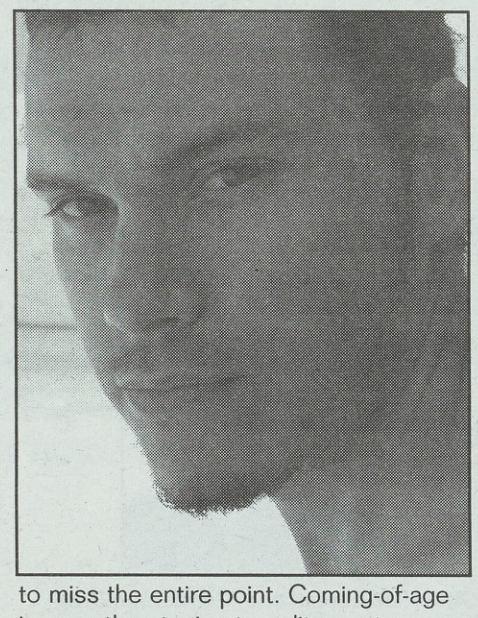
Clay's Way, the debut novel from Blair Mastbaum, chronicles adolescence at its most despairing--turning angst ridden boys into desperate, heartbreaking men. Sixteen year-old Sam, a pot-smoking, punk wannabe with a penchant for beating off and bad haiku, obsesses over Clay—a surfer who seems to have everything but struggles internally. Sam feels an urgency towards Clay, unrivaled by anything else. Verging on delirium, Sam is so singular in his obsession; he unravels in jealousy, anger and sadness. I'm an emotional haiku poet. I have a right to cry about the boy I love. The emotional and sexual mind games in the novel are exhausting but easy to claim as our own because we have all been young. At times, it is impossible to make a separate distinction between our experience and Sam's. Everything runs together in an emotional soup.



In the absence of genuine guidance, Sam searches for meaning in a vacuous existence fueled by anger, alienation and copious amount of drugs and alcohol. He is an unrelenting wreck—while surfing and going to parties, he is raging, crashing into Clay at unstoppable rates of speeds. There is no descent into pathos or sentimentality. Resolution is not boxed with a pretty, unthreatening bow. There is cynicism and bitterness, yes—but there are moments of humor as well. Tearing a page from the book of Holden Caulfield-isms, Clay says: Why does everybody always expect me to talk about shit? Fuck, brah, I just wanna got to Japan and be a samurai.

The novel succeeds on many levels but the strength is the accessibility of emotions. Who hasn't been jealous or broken by the perils of adolescent lust, apathy and uncertainty? The universal thread ties the reader to the characters in compelling and surprising ways. Regardless of gender, age, or sexual preference, everyone can relate. Anyone who has ever struggled with identity, alienation, or disinterest or will find value here--that is to say, all of us.

Packaging teenage confusion as merely pissed off is



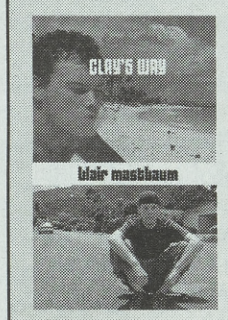
to miss the entire point. Coming-of-age is an unthreatening term literary types use to sanitize teenage confusion. Clay's Way is bucking the trend. Mastbaum is a new voice who writes lean and spare sentences stripped of any pretense. Raw and optimistic, he unsparingly goes for the jugular when appropriate. As my mind flies farther up, I see the ocean on all sides. Farther up, the shape of Oahu, then the chain of islands, then, the pure isolation of where I am. How small must I be, and how far away, until I disappear completely?

There is an uncanny intelligence in the novel—a feeling that Mastbaum is resolving something —a secret we are not privy to, a party to which we remain blissfully uninvited. He never resorts to careless or precious writing, ever-present in lesser coming-of-age counterparts and bad Chick lit. Benefiting from spacious and generous writing, Clay's Way *is a novel that strives.*

JTHORNTON@Q-RAGG.COM

Q-RAGG EVENT

Q-RAGG & THE OPEN BOOK INVITE YOU TO A SPECIAL EVENT



AUTHOR BLAIR MASTBAUM WILL READ SELECTIONS FROM HIS NEW BOOK AND SIGN COPIES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

OCTOBER 8TH, 7PM

THE OPEN BOOK

910 21ST ST., SACRAMENTO

WRITER BLAIR MASTBAUM

Q-RAGG NEWSPAPER

717 K Street, Ste. 519, Sacramento CA 95814
newsline 916.247.7244 faxline 916.381.8121

WHAT IS NEWS

Many of us are used to thinking that news is something "beyond ourselves"—Federal Marriage Amendments, San Francisco Parades, and the like. But news that interests a community is sometimes about...YOU. As members of the Sacramento GLBT community, we sometimes get so bogged down in the news of the world, we lose track of what's going on in our own community. Q-Ragg wants to not only keep our community up to speed on what's going on within our city limits, but celebrate who we are and what accomplishments we make along the way. Q-Ragg strives to be Sacramento's hometown GLBT newspaper, reporting on the lives of our community.

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Some folks may think it's odd that Q-Ragg calls folks by their first names, uses a familiar voice for feature stories, and allows Q-Voice to present opinions that go against the gay status quo. Q-Ragg believes a community paper is a mirror of its hometown and that, in essence, we are all neighbors. We are one community with many voices, and however different those voices may be, we are all working, ultimately, for the same goal: a strong, cohesive community treated with equality and respect. To achieve that, we've got to get familiar with one another, and what our community has to offer us.

WWW.Q-RAGG.COM

SEND US YOUR Q-MUNITY NEWS

SEND US NEWS (news@q-ragg.com)

Q-Ragg wants to fill its pages with the Sacramento GLBT community and that means YOU. Keep our email and fax number handy, and when you come across something you think is interesting, send it to us. Stories such as the Lavender Library is now renting the new Queer As Folk, the Lambda Center got 20 new volunteers in one month, you just signed a book deal, you went to the capitol to protest and want to tell how it affected you,a new non-profit just opened its doors, the Valley Rainbow Pages just hit record sales, your fundraiser had excellent attendance. All these are things we may overlook as not newsworthy, but Q-Ragg believes these are the things that reflect our community and who we are, as much as stories about the FMA and SF Pride, perhaps even more so, as they are close to home and involve the people and places we see on a regular basis.

SEND US EVENTS (events@q-ragg.com)

Q-Ragg wants to make certain your event is listed in our calendar. When submitting an event, please be certain to include the Who, What, When, Where and any details about the event we should know. Also, please include the name, phone number and email address of who to contact for follow-up information. Photos can be emailed to: photos@q-ragg.com (*Preferred photo type: tif or jpeg image, 300 dpi. Hard copy images may be mailed to our office, or dropped off in person during business hours.*)

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING Q- SACRAMENTO'S GLBT Q-MUNITY VOICE!

Q-EVENTS

To get your event listed, send your press release to: Q-Ragg, 717 K Street, Suite 519, Sacramento, CA 95814 or fax 916.442.4009 You can also send your info to us in an email at events@q-ragg.com. Remember to include the who, what, where, when & why of your event!

OCTOBER

3 Sunday

SVL Pancake Breakfast, 10:00a-1:00p, The famous SVL Pancake Breakfast at the Faces Night Club, Corner of 20th and K Street.. (Pancakes, eggs, and lots of hot juicy meat - oh and we are serving sausages too!). Please come and join us for our Monthly Pancake Buffet Benefit. $5.00 Donations towards the local communities and charities. Make your Sunday morning with your local Sacramento Valley Leathermen.

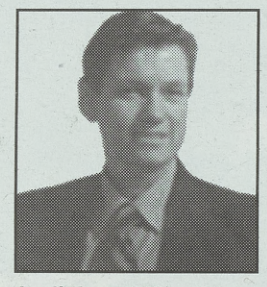
8 Friday

Boycott For Equality: Gays to Withdraw Cash from Banks October 8 - Could Total Billions, Organizers of the Boycott For Equality are expanding their nationwide walkout to include a coordinated cash withdrawal from the economy on October 8. To demonstrate the need for equality in marriage and the workplace, straight and gay supporters will each take out $80 from their local ATM. For more information, visit http://www.boycottforequality.org

9 Saturday

The Art of Hair Studio joins the Second Saturday art walk, from 6-8pm. Presenting Ceramics, bronzes and batiks by S.F. Whetstone Free-form mosaics on canvas by Tracy Bowling and Custom sterling silver and copper jewelry by June Vargas/Eclectic Alchemy 2401 J Street (at the back of the Kinections building) Call 441-5552 for information\

16 Saturday



Attention Ladies and 'Gentlemen'Drag King Pageant and Celebration

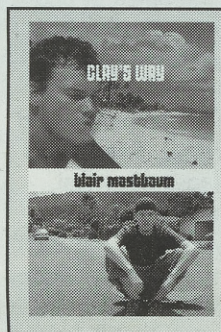
Come by and checkout the first annual Drag King Pageant and Celebration at Uptown Studios hosted by drag enthusiast Tess. If you can answer Yes to any of the following questions, you might have fun participating in the pageant as well. "Are you often called "Sir" in checkout Lines?" "Are some women inexplicably startled when you walk into a Ladies room?" "Does the idea of strutting your stuff in "men's" clothing (while the ladies swoon) sound like a great way to spend an evening?" Then come out and let your inner Drag King out to play. There will be lots of fun to be had by all and you can play to win prizes in the following categories: Hottest Outfit, Smoothest Strut, Most Convincing, Best Gentleman, and Best Talent Act (talent segment only). Doors open at 6pm for mingling, socializing, networking, and viewing of featured art on display. Show starts at 7:30pm! You don't want to miss this! Uptown Studios is located at 912-1/2 J Street. Look for the Orange door. $15 advance tickets, $20 door. Purchase tickets online at www.uptownstudiosgallery.com Contact Tess at 916 726-3640 or email her at : uptownbois@yahoo.com.

23 Saturday

International Caravan for Justice in Juarez and Chihuahua, 6pm to 9pm, The Grand, 1215 J Street, Sacramento, Speakers: Marc Klass, Father of Polly Klass and Klass Kids, Beyond missing, Mrs.Ramona Morales mother of Silvia Elena Rivera Morales, murdered in 1995, Jessica Marques from Mexico Solidarity Network in San Francisco, Art Showing/ Informational Tables

30 Saturday

Halloween Show and Dance Sacramento DanceSport Project Presents Our Halloween Extravaganza YWCA 17th and L, Sacramento, Doors Open at 6:30 for Halloween Trick or Treats, Special Treat (or Trick) for those in costume, Show 7:30-8:30, Dance 8:30-11:30m Tickets $15.00,Available from Sacramento DanceSport Students We want you to know that this will be a Thriller!



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OCTOBER 8TH, 7PM

THE OPEN BOOK

910 21ST ST., SACRAMENTO

Lambda Community Center Schedule

Sunday

Women's Coming Out Group 6pm-7:30pm

Open to women of all ages, at any stage of coming out. WomenComingOut@lambdasac.org

Monday

Men's Coming Out Group, 6pm

Open to men of all *ages investigating "coming out" issues. mencomingout@lambdasac.org*

Men's Discussion Group, 6:30pm

Explore gay-related issues in a supportive, non-judgmental environment. mensgroup@lambdasac.org

Over the Rainbow Group of NA, 8pm

A 12-step program for men and women trying to overcome a narcotics addiction.www.na.org

Lambda Law Referral Service, 5:30pm

Wednesday

Womyn on Wednesday, 7pm

For socialization and to discuss issues that Lesbian and bisexual women may find very important. womensgroup@lambdasac.org

First Stages,1st & 3rd Weds., 8-9pm

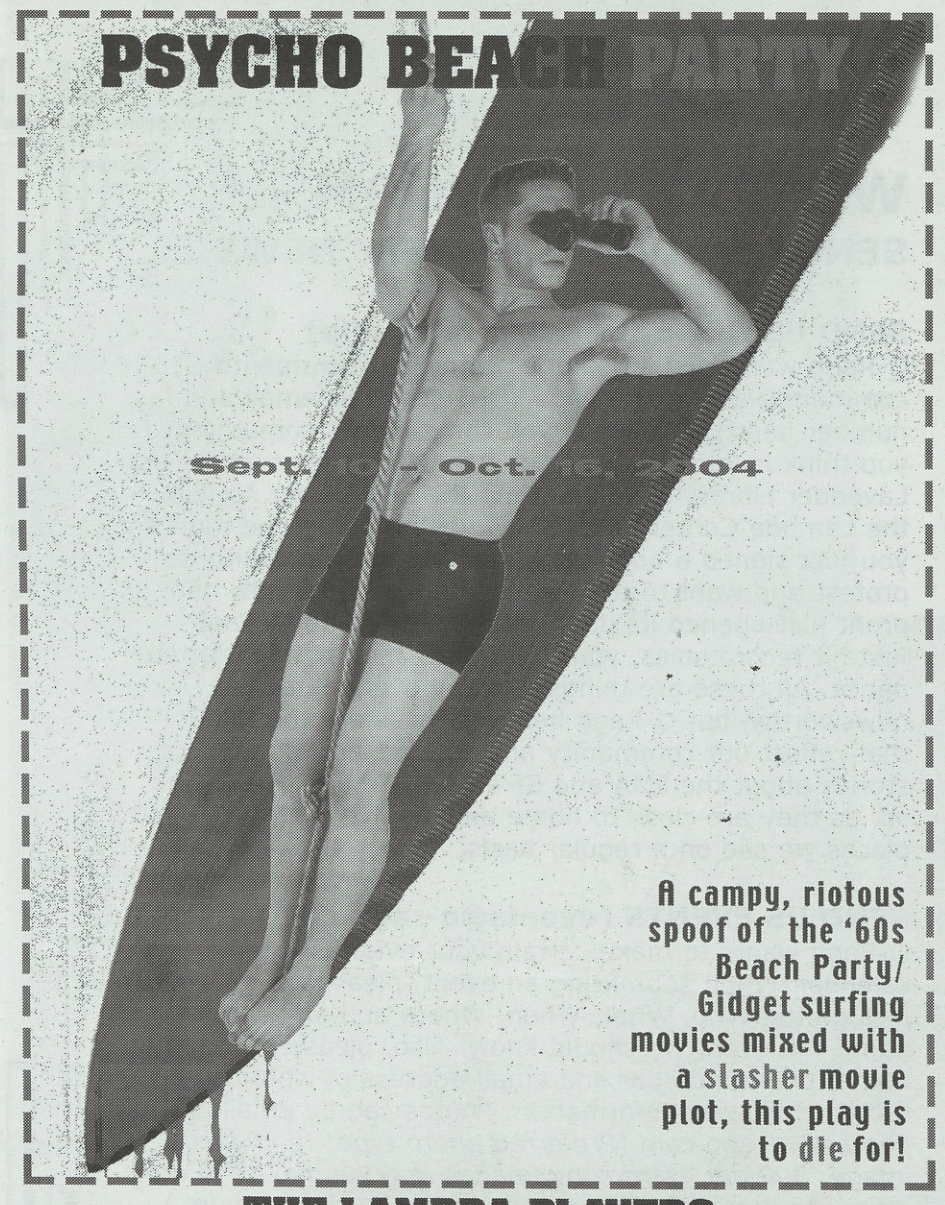
Support/discussion group for youth 18-29 who are recently diagnosed with HIV. firststages@lambdasac.org

Friday

Breaking Barriers/Lambda Youth Group, 8pm

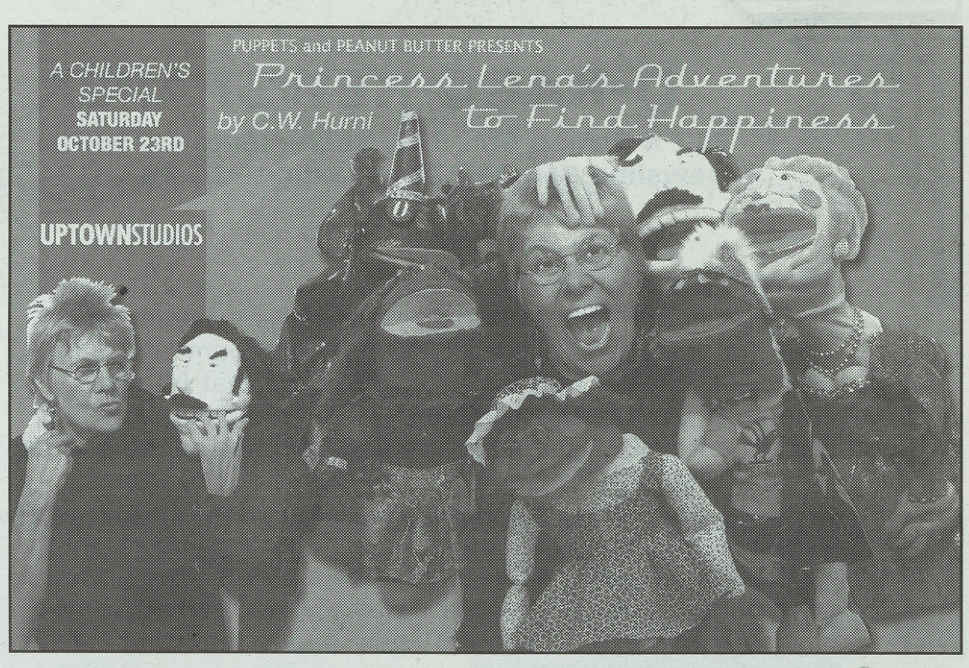
Fun, educational, and thought provoking discussions that tackle topics facing queer youth today youthgroup@lambdasac.org

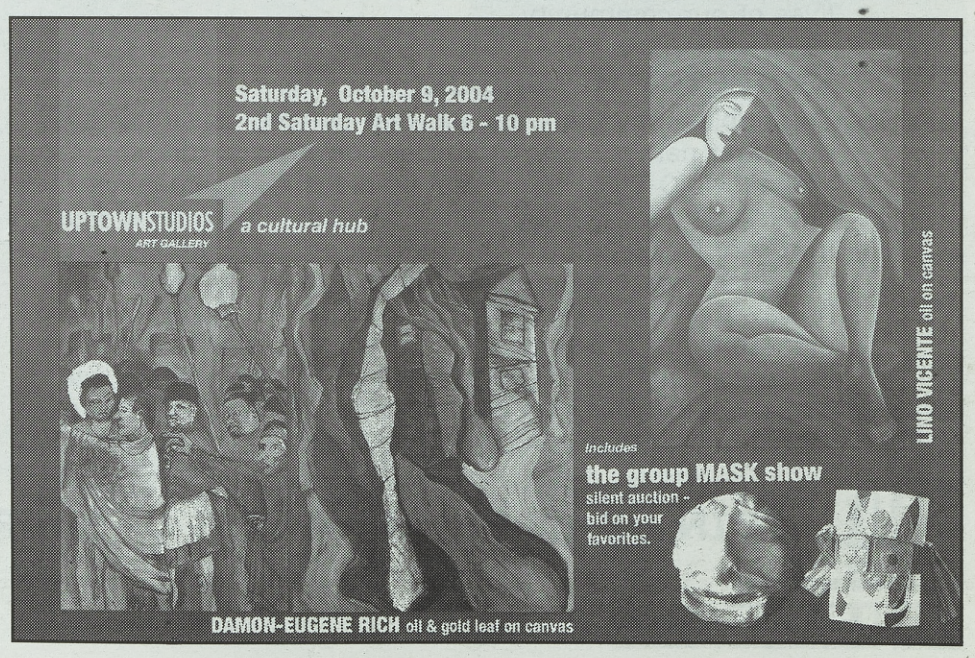
SEND YOUR EVENTS TO: EVENTS@Q-RAGG.COM


PSYCHO BEACH PARTY
Sept. [illegible] – Oct. [illegible], 2004
A campy, riotous spoof of the '60s Beach Party/ Gidget surfing movies mixed with a slasher movie plot, this play is to die for!

THE LAMBDA PLAYERS

Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm, WM. J. Geery Theatre
2130 L Street (22 & L Sts.), Downtown Sacramento
Reservations: 916.484.4742, www.lambdaplayers.com
TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE BEAT, 1700 J ST.
$15 General·$13 Senior/SARTA/LoST




Saturday, October 9, 2004
2nd Saturday Art Walk 6 - 10 pm
UPTOWNSTUDIOS
ART GALLERY
a cultural hub
LINO VICENTE oil on canvas
Includes
the group MASK show
silent auction - bid on your favorites.
DAMON-EUGENE RICH oil & gold leaf on canvas

BUSINESSES WISHING TO BE LISTED IN THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY WITHOUT PLACING A DISPLAY AD WILL BE CHARGED A $10 PER ISSUE FEE.

AIDS-HIV SERVICES

Breaking Barriers, 447-AIDS
www.breakingbarriers-sacramento.org
Capitol City AIDS Fund
www.capcityaidsfund.org

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Lambda Players, 484-4742
www.lambdaplayers.com
Open Book, Ltd.
www.openbookltd.com
Uptown Studios, 446–1082
912 1/2 J St., www.uptownstudiosgallery.com

BARS/NIGHTCLUBS

The Bolt, 649-8420
2560 Boxwood, www.theboltbar.com
Club 21, 443-1537
1119 21st St, www.club21sacramento.com
FACES Nightclub, 448-7798
20th & K, www.faces.net

BUSINESS RESOURCES

Rainbow Chamber Commerce, 532-3347
www.rainbowchamber.com
Valley Rainbow Pages, 444-2322
www.valleyrainbowpages.com

FAMILY SUPPORT

Sacramento PFLAG, 978-0410
www.sacramentopflag.com

MEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Sac. Valley Leathermen, 486-5500
www.svlclub.org
Sacramento Valley Bears
www.sacvalleybears.org

COMPUTER CONSULTING

Meyer Enterprises, 524-5140

EVENT PLANNING

Do An Event, 456-5820
www.doanevent.com

GRAPHICS

Ragg-Time Graphics, 247-7244

REAL ESTATE

Patrick Lowell-Prudential, 835-9405

MORTGAGE COMPANIES

Countrywide Jack Maple, 717-8890
home.countrywide.com/jackmaple

POLITICAL GROUPS

John Kerry For President
www.sacramentoforkerry.com
Stonewall Democrats, 359-1040
www.sacstonewall.org

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sirspeedysacto@sbcglobal.net

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EMPLOYMENT — ROOMMATES
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VEHICLES — PETS
OTHER:_____

PERSONALS (18+ ONLY)

MEN 4 MEN — WOMEN 4 WOMEN
BISEXUAL — OTHER _____

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CIRCLE ONE: VISA MC DISCOVER AMEX
CARD #:

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EXP. DATE: ____/____/____

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P.O. BOX 162699, SACRAMENTO, CA 95816
OR FAX TO: 916.381.8121

*First 30 words are $10 with each additional word .25 cents. There will be a $25.00 fee for all returned checks. Run your ad in five (5) consecutive issues and the 6th issue is free.

The Q-Ragg is not responsible, nor can be held liable for any events or circumstances resulting from the placing of a classified ad, nor the responses received.

CLASSIFIEDS

SEND RESPONSES TO PERSONALS IN A SEALED ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: Q-RAGG PERSONALS, PO BOX 162699, SACRAMENTO, CA 95816. PLACE THE CODE IN THE LOWER LEFT HAND CORNER

FOR RENT

2 rooms for rent available now in lgbt friendly townhome. Only 15 minutes from Midtown. Easy access to hwy 80, near Douglas Blvd. Call Janelle for details at 916.781.7789

PERSONALS—MEN

GWM—40 yrs old, 6'4" Brn, Hzl 350 furry, full beard. Loving big guy with big heart. Stable and comfortable with his sexuality and being a man. Seeking someone near my age who is smaller in height and body size, prefer a guy with some body hair, who is masculine but can be romantic as well. Please enclose a picture. Code: CASAC01

GBM—Happy, Healthy HIV+, non-smoker, social drinker, 32 yrs old, 6'1", sculpted body but down to earth. Looking for average to fit GHM or GWM into dancing, movies and romance. Send a reply, prefer with picture. Code CASAC02

GWM—Good looking bear, 49, 6', 290 lbs, Salt and Pepper hair w/white beard and mustache. Versatile bottom, can be kinky. Seeks top bear or chaser. Likes are cooking, gardening, camping, entertaining friends and reading. Like quiet times at home watching videos in front of a fire. Code CASAC03

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The Q-RAGG is looking for people who are:

Professional • Self-Motivated • Inventive • Friendly • Dedicated • Community-Oriented

to join our advertising and sales department. If this sounds like you, give us a call!

PHONE 916.247.RAGG OR EMAIL PUBLISHER@Q-RAGG.COM

We'll Do Everything We Can to Make Your Home Loan Process Easier.

And That Includes $500 OFF Your Closing Costs!

At Countrywide, we are focused on making the home loan process easier and more affordable. And that's why we offer services like:

- Fast up-front approvals
- Builder Rate Cap program that provides interest rate protection while your home is under construction.
- No Loan Origination Fee
- Reduced fee on final closing costs by using the coupon below

We think you'll be pleasantly surprised on how many ways we've found to make home loans easier.

CALL TOLL FREE 800-594-0444

SAVE $500 on Closing Costs

Compliments of Countrywide Home Loans and Jack Maple

Present this coupon to our Countrywide branch office in Roseville, CA and save on closing costs. Coupon must accompany your loan application and a copy of your signed sales agreement. $500 will be reflected as a closing and credit. (Loan must close to receive this discount.)

Take Advantage of This Offer Today!

JACK MAPLE
Branch Sales Manager

Phone: 800.594.0444
Fax: 888.599.5915
Web: home.countrywide.com/jackmaple
Email: Jack_Maple@Countrywide.com

Countrywide Home Loans®
THE Jack Maple TEAM

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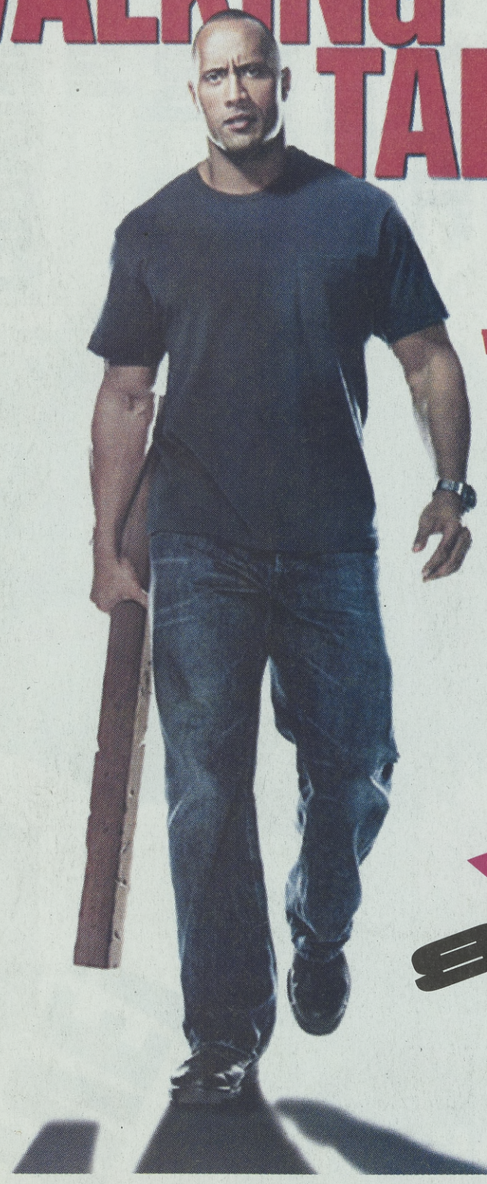
RAGG
OCTOBER 2004

THE ROCK WALKING TALL



INSIDE:

2004 FILM FESTIVAL
WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT
KATE CLINTON
GINA LIVINGSTON
PSYCHO BEACH PARTY
SECOND SATURDAY
BLAIR MASTBAUM
LLACE OPEN MIC NIGHT
GUYS GONE WILD
TALK TO MOTHER

SIGLFF
OCT. 6 - 10

SACRAMENTO'S GLBT COMMUNITY VOICE

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And That Includes $500 OFF Your Closing Costs!

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JACK MAPLE
Branch Sales Manager

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Fax: 888.599.5915
Web: home.countrywide.com/jackmaple
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